STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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'MY HERO'

Margaret's grateful hug for her rescuer

PAGE 4

GOLD RUSH

Double medal success for Jodie

PAGE 40

£6m HOTEL IS TAKING SHAPE

By Heather Large

A £6 MILLION hotel and restaurant development is taking shape on a main gateway into Stourbridge.

The 80-bed Premier Inn and Brewers Fayre restaurant in Birmingham Street in Stourbridge is being built on a site that had been empty after old buildings were cleared to make way for the project.

Work is now progressing well on the two buildings, which are surrounded by scaffolding. The walls and roof of the restaurant are already in place and the hotel is also starting to give a glimpse of what it might look like when construction work is due to be completed in the autumn. Work to clear the old Cox Hire site to make way for the development took place last summer ahead of construction beginning in April this year.

The town's new Premier Inn takes shape

A drive-through unit and 122 car parking spaces will also be created.

The development, by Stourbridge-based Barberry, will bring 65 jobs to the area.

Director Martyn Cartwright said: "It is a first class site for a Premier Inn hotel and Brewer's Fayre restaurant and there is room for further development to complement these excellent new facilities.

"The site is an ideal location for a mixed-use scheme and it is well positioned for visitors to explore the Black Country and surrounding countryside.

College

"The scheme will create new jobs, attract additional visitors and support key businesses in the area."

It is one of many developments taking place in the town with work also progressing well on a new £2.9m art block for King Edward VI College, fronting Coventry Street and Duke Street.

Contractors are also busy building an extension to Birmingham Metropolitan College's campus in Hagley Road.

Last month, Dudley Council approved plans for McDonald's and KFC to build new units on land off Mill Race Lane. They will be constructed on a site formerly occupied by the Hayes factory before it was demolished four years ago.

Developers revealed the scheme to create 65 full and part-time jobs at McDonald's and a further 40 at KFC.

There are also major plans to revive The Waterfront business and leisure district at Brierley Hill with offices being converted into luxury apartments.

■ Revive The Waterfront — Page 12

Landmark 1930s pub at risk of demolition

A LANDMARK pub on a gateway to Dudley which was bought for more than £1.3 million will be demolished under new plans.

Jahorina Limited which purchased the King Arthur on the corner of Birmingham New Road and Priory Road, wants to flatten the dilapidated building, which was built in 1939 by Dudley architects Webb and Gray.

The firm says it does not have a viable future as a pub and the site could be better used, possibly as a shop.

Eyesore

Castle and Priory ward councillor Ken Finch has backed the site being used for a new purpose saying it was currently an 'eyesore' on an important entrance to the town.

Residents are being consulted on the plans before a decision is made by Dudley Council. The developer will need to submit a further planning application for new development on the site.

Councillor Finch said: "Whatever happens, it's going to be an improvement on what is there at the moment."

The site was purchased for £1,320,000 in April last year from Wolverhampton-based Goldleaf Leisure, which was dissolved in December.

The pub closed in 2012.

Service marks war centenary

RESIDENTS can remember those who gave their lives in the First World War at a church service marking 100 years since the conflict began.

It will be held at Top Church, in Dudley, on tomorrow, Friday, at 6pm and all are welcome to attend.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston will be among the civic dignitaries attending and Reverend Andrew Wickens will lead the service.

MP backing speed action

MP for Stourbridge Margot James says she supports the proposals by Dudley Council to drop the limit from 40mph to 30mph on Thorns Road.

Thorns Primary School, Stevens Park and Lye Railway Station are situated along the dual carriageway, which was also where 26-year-old Sartaj Aziz was hit by a lorry in August last year and died at the scene.

Ms James said: "The traffic and dangerous driving on Thorns Road is especially hazardous given the number of children around during school drop off and collection times. I have seen this for myself when visiting the local schools, who are all concerned about road safety.

"Since then I have been working with both the police and the council on traffic calming measures which could be put in place."

■ Bid to boost safety — Page 3

Hip hop not hip op for grannies

The dancing grannies, alias Susan Hawkins, Jacky Fellows, Deb Nicholls and Emma Rollason

HOBBLING along on walking sticks, a group of who are apparently cardigan-clad pensioners in the Black Country have become an internet sensation with a dance routine to give Beyonce a run for her money

Dudley comedy troupe The Fizzogs became a worldwide internet hit after a video of the group in action with their hip hop grannies routine at Stourbridge carnival went viral. Now the four familiar faces from the Black Country Living Museum are in talks with American TV producers.

The women behind the blue rinse wigs are Sue Hawkins, Deb Nicholls, Jacky Fellows and Emma Rollason from Fizzog Productions. Deb, of Wollaston, said: " We have had a lot of interest from America." Sue, who started Fizzog Productions 14 years ago, said she couldn't believe the attention the video, made on July 6, has received.

Boost for campaign to save theatre

CAMPAIGNERS say their bid to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition has been 'galvanised' since plans to use the site for a visitor centre were dropped.

Proposals to build the multi-million pound 'Dudley Bug' Trilobite Centre on the site of the old 1930s Dudley Hippodrome in Castle Hill, Dudley, were scrapped this week. Instead, under new proposals, the centre will be built in the zoo grounds.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group have welcomed the news, saying it shows there is no need to bulldoze the historic theatre on Castle Hill.

Friends chairman Gordon Downing said: "It will galvanise us and make others think who maybe thought it is a dead duck that instead there can be a future for the Hippodrome."

"People are already coming up with more ideas about how we can use parts of the Hippodrome for different events. We just needed them to look at the options."

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome plan to hold a meeting on August 7 at 7.30pm at the Ex-Servicemen's Club, in Hall Street, Dudley, for people to hear the latest on the campaign to save the theatre.

■ Bug rethink — Page 2

Arrests after zoo break in

THREE people have been arrested after breaking into Dudley Zoo.

The police helicopter spotted the group running through the zoo grounds in the early hours of Friday after a 999 call was received from a witness who saw them climbing over a wall at around 12.50. Twenty minutes later a 24-year-old man from Walsall, a 26-year-old man from Tipton and a 22-year-old woman from Gornal were arrested. No animals were hurt.

website www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Wombourne 1st Windows

For more information see page 10

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Zoo revise plan for 'Dudley Bug' centre

PLANS to build a multi-million visitor centre on the site of a landmark Dudley theatre have been scrapped by officials following a rethink.

The 'Dudley Bug' Trilobite centre had been earmarked for the site of the Dudley Hippodrome at Castle Hill, Dudley.

But bosses at Dudley Zoo have revealed those proposals had been shelved after they consulted schools and other groups. Uncertainty over the future availability of the Dudley Hippodrome site also contributed to the change of heart.

Instead the Trilobite centre is to be built in the zoo grounds, close to the bear enclosure which is currently being revamped (see page 5).

It gives the Hippodrome a stay of execution after Dudley Council bosses agreed to take demolition plans off the table while other options are explored.

Zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman said the new site would allow children to remain safely on site at the zoo.

"We were led to believe the Hippodrome site would become available at a time suitable to the zoo's ongoing development plans and obviously seized the opportunity to provide a home for our much-needed education and conference centre," she said.

"However, the opening of Dudley Zoo's new entrance and car park has shifted the physical focus of the site and since our Easter launch we have invested in extensive surveys of schools and independent groups and their views are constant – they want to remain on site."

Call for compromise over mosque dispute

A COUNCILLOR has pledged to work with Muslim leaders to reach a compromise after extension plans for a mosque were refused.

Plans to build two 29ft decorate minarets and a domed roof on the Baitul Ghafoor Mosque on Long Lane, Halesowen, were thrown out after more than 200 residents petitioned against the additions to the former Methodist church building.

Now Halesowen North Councillor Stuart Henley, who backed the petition, wants to work with mosque leaders on a solution.

Mr Henley has suggested that the applicants apply for permission to build the domed roof only. He believes it is the towering minarets proposal that residents have reacted angrily against.

Mr Henley said: "Now the appeal has been refused it would be good to all come together and compromise on just the dome, which will still see the once Methodist church have an Islamic symbol and hopefully keep everyone happy. All can then move on in peace, loyalty and respect.

"I will be arranging another meeting in the near future to see if we can come to a compromise."

Mr Henley rejected comments made by Dr Muhammad Ashraf, of The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, claiming the plans were rejected because of hatred towards Islam, more than the impact on the landscape. Dr Ashraf said: "All we are asking for is a symbol for the community, like a church spire."

Mr Henley said: "New church builds are rarely built with spires as these are no longer needed to call people to prayer. The mosques need to follow suit."

Mr Mohammad Khan, National Vice President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, said the suggestion by Mr Henley is one that they were considering.

Soldier in a mountain marathon

A SOLDIER from Dudley was among the six strong Army team that took on the challenge of a 48-mile Alpine marathon at the weekend.

Private David Billingham, aged 23, was joining comrades from the 1st Battalion the Mercian Regiment on the trek that took place on Saturday.

The arduous challenge that took around 14 hours, involved an ascent and descent of 8,530 feet to raise thousands of pounds for The Mercian Regiment Benevolent Fund. They underwent a training run in the Windermere Marathon in May but the Swiss Alpine Ultra proved far more demanding

Major Rich Grover, who lead a team, said:"All six personnel have served at least one tour of Afghanistan, and two have also served in Iraq and Northern Ireland. We have already raised £3,000 and hope to reach our target of £5,000 with continued help from sponsors."

The rest of the team was Sgt Chris Wightman, Cpl Dipak Rai, LCpl William Kelly and Pte Tom Keenan. See www.justgiving.com/Richard-Grover4/ to give a donation.

New dimension at playtime

Artist Kara Carlson, from SAS Street Advertising Services, stands over the playground picture

CHILDREN have an extra reason to hop, skip and jump during break times when they return to school in September after an amazing 3D picture was unveiled on their playground.

The remarkable illusion has been painted at St Mary's Church of England Primary School in Kingswinford. It is thought the school is now the only one in the country to have a 3D picture on its playground.

The design has a musical feel and features a piano with guitars along with music notes that appear to hover above the ground. It was painted by Kara Carlson, from SAS Street Advertising Services.

Dave Cotterill, a teacher at nearby Kingswinford School which is closely linked to the primary school, came up with the idea. He said: "The children love it, there is a buzz of excitement from the picture in the playground.This is an excellent project for both schools, which has inspired everyone and will benefit many children in the future."

Lucky man escapes cylinder explosion

A MAN had a lucky escape when a gas cylinder exploded in his kitchen seconds after he had stepped out of the room.

The blast in Gornal blew a window 14 feet into the front garden, shattered an internal door and shook neighbouring homes.

Shrapnel from the broken wooden door peppered the hallway, damaging a cupboard while a flash fire in the kitchen set fire to curtains.

The man had just left the kitchen to join his father in the living room of the terraced house in The Straits at around 8pm on Saturday night. The explosion blew open the lounge door as anxious neighbours rushed into the street to see what had happened.

Bizarrely the glass in the kitchen window blown into the garden did not break and the frame was only slightly damaged and fire fighters were able to reinstall it before leaving.

Crew Commander Carl Hill from Dudley fire station said: "The gas cylinder of a camping stove had exploded blowing out the window and destroying the internal kitchen door, which was torn off its hinges and smashed to pieces."

Walker hurt on Clent Hills

A WALKER was rescued from the Clent Hills after badly injuring his ankle.

Paramedics were called to the four stones at the summit of the beauty spot where the man, aged in his 40s, had injured his leg falling into a hole. He was given pain relief and treated for a suspected fractured ankle.

The man was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham for further treatment after paramedics were called at 1.20pm on Monday. They used their 6x6 all-terrain vehicle to safely bring the man down to the awaiting ambulance.

Bus attack arrest

A MAN has been arrested in connection with a sexual assault on a bus in Cradley Heath. Police have been investigating an attack on a young woman on the number 243 bus from Dudley to Merry Hill. Officers arrested a 59-year-old man from Dudley.

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Buses in a major shake-up of routes

BUS passengers are facing upheaval after changes a dozen services including routes to a hospital and Merry Hill shopping centre.

National Express West Midlands has revised services in parts of Dudley and Sandwell. Some passengers claim the changes were not adequately communicated.

The 127 service from Birmingham to Warley and Blackheath. has been extended into Dudley to replace the 205/205E.

The 205 service will not longer serves Blackheath and only links Dudley to Russells Hall Hospital and Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

The 297/297A to Merry Hill shopping centre, Brierley Hill and Russells Hall Hospital from Halesowen, Old Hill and Cradley Heath is now only running from Merry Hill to Gornal Wood via Brierley Hill, Russells Hall Hospital and Pensnett.

National Express West Midlands spokesman Jack Kelly said: "We have worked hard to ensure that residents were given notice of these changes and that they have as small an impact on existing customers as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience these changes cause."

Meerkats get own mansion

MEERKATS at Dudley Zoo are to have a home make over thanks to an anonymous £1,000 donation.

Work is underway on a meerkat mansion after a mystery donor posted a cheque to the Castle Hill zoo addressed to 'Alexander'.

Now the meerkats at the historic site will benefit from the revamp project which will include a heated timber-frame structure. The development team at the zoo are working alongside keepers to also build a viewing window so visitors can watch the meerkat mob whatever the weather.

Museum sponsor

FOUNDRY business Thomas Dudley has linked up with the nearby Black Country Living Museum to allow more than 1,000 schoolchildren to visit the attraction. From September the company will sponsor the museum's schools membership scheme.

Guest homes project hit by mines delay

PLANS to transform the site of a Victorian hospital into around 200 homes have been delayed by mine shafts and limestone workings.

Seven years ago the former Dudley Guest Hospital, Tipton Road, was taken off the hands of the NHS by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for a major homes development.

Wates Living Space was appointed developer for the £30 million project four years ago at site, next to the current Guest Hospital and opposite the Black Country Living Museum. A total of 218 homes and community facilities including a meeting or sports hall and shop were to be built at the site.

Start on construction was expected to begin two years ago with the homes expected to be built by now but work on the scheme is yet to start.

Agency spokesman Johanne Thomas said: "The HCA are still committed to the redevelopment of Dudley Guest Hospital and we are still working with the developers Wates Construction. Unforeseen site costs, from issues such as mine shafts and limestone works amongst other things, has resulted in delays and so we are currently making some changes to the scheme to ensure it is still a viable project.

"We expect to have concluded this in the autumn when we will be in a position to announce the changes and revised timescales for the project."

Stewart Reid Business, director at Wates Living Space, said: "Our focus remains on working closely with the HCA to ensure that this complex regeneration project is built in the most cost-effective way.

"The unforeseen issues have meant that we have had to collaboratively readdress our plans in order to reach a solution that works for all parties and will ultimately bring these new homes for sale and rent to the people of Dudley."

The main hospital closed about 10 years ago after most departments were moved to modern Russells Hall Hospital.

Lower speed limit in bid to boost safety on busy road

A BUSY dual carriageway in Quarry Bank where a man died after being hit by a lorry will have its speed limit cut to 30mph in the wake of calls to make the road safer.

Crashes, speeding traffic and the number of schools, parks and homes nearby are among the factors behind the proposal for Thorns Road.

The reduction from 40mph to 30mph will cover the whole of Thorns Road, as well as parts of Pedmore Road in Lye and Merry Hill to cover a 1.5mile stretch from Lye to Brierley Hill.

By Alex Ross

Calls

Thorns Primary School, Stevens Park, Lye Railway Station are situated along the road, which was also where 26-year-old Sartaj Aziz was hit by a lorry in August last year. He died at the scene.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transport, said: "There have been calls from people and businesses living along the road for a long time to make it safer. We have looked at the issues and considered a reduction in speed limit is the best option.

"It is a dual carriageway,but there are lots of people crossing the road and many schools, pubs and parks along it. There was also the accident where the man was knocked down by the lorry last year. I believe it is important we encourage traffic to slow down and improve the safety for people."

Council officers carried out a speed survey which showed 85 per cent of motorists were travelling within the 40mph speed limit. The average speed was 34.5mph.

In a report officers said the average speed recorded showed a new 30mph speed limit could be 'realistically considered'.

The plan has been devised alongside the council's Safer Routes to School Scheme after the council received complaints from parents about the speed of traffic on the road.

The decision, due to be signed off by highways bosses this week, has been welcomed by mother-of-two Jo Messinger.

Last month she called for improvements to the crossing junction at Thorns Road and Quarry Bank High Street after she had almost been hit by a van when crossing the road with her two sons Adam, eight, and Zach, six, at a pedestrian crossing in February.

Pistols handed in to police

ALMOST 30 guns have been surrendered in less than a week after the launch of an amnesty to rid the streets of the West Midlands of firearms. The weapons, which have included Second World War pistols as well as more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition, have been handed in at police stations across the region. The initiative until Saturday allows people to hand firearms into police stations across the West Midlands without being prosecuted.

Sixth Green Heritage Accreditation for Haden Hill Park in Cradley Heath

Green spaces win top awards

PARKS and nature reserves across the Black Country have been awarded the coveted Green Flag award for their beauty.

In Dudley there are seven winners including Grade-I listed The Leasowes in Halesowen, which also won the Green Heritage Accreditation; Huntingtree Park, Halesowen; Priory Park, Dudley; Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley; and Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Our borough is blessed with a number of beautiful green spaces and I am delighted that the hard work of our teams and members of the local community is being recognised with this prestigious status. We will continue to maintain our parks to the highest possible standards."

Sandwell was top locally with the largest number of sites earning the accolade, including Sandwell Valley Country Park, Tipton Cemetery, Victoria Park in Smethwick and Moorlands Allotments, West Bromwich. Haden Hill Park in Cradley received the Green Heritage Accreditation for the sixth year. There were none in Wolverhampton which failed to enter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vaccinations high across borough

DUDLEY is beating national targets for vaccinations, contributing to a sharp fall in two dangerous diseases.

Public health experts welcomed figures which show the borough is above targets for vaccinations against whooping cough and rotavirus, a common cause of vomiting and severe diarrhoea in infants.

Uptake in England revealed 71 per cent of pregnant women in Dudley had been vaccinated against whooping cough and 97 per cent of children had been vaccinated.

Hard work has paid off, says MP

DUDLEY South MP Chris Kelly has welcomed figures which show the British economy is above its pre-recession peak.

The economy grew by 0.8 per cent in the second quarter of this year, up 3.1 per cent on the same period last year. Conservatives say this means more business and more jobs. Tory MP Mr Kelly said: "Thanks to the hard work of people in Dudley and the Black Country, and across Britain, the economy is now above its pre-crisis peak."

Roll up to Best of British fun day

A MUSEUM is holding its Best of British family fun day on Saturday.

There will be Punch and Judy shows, donkey rides glassmaking demonstrations and crafts at Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford.

There will be storytelling, people in historic costumes and a falconry display at the free event from 10am to 3.30pm. Call (01384) 812745 for details.

Council planners getting Smarter

DUDLEY Council has been named a Smarter Planning Champion by the Planning Portal, the Government's online planning and building regulation resource.

It comes as 60 per cent of applicants submit planning applications online, which is said to help speed up the process by improving communication between applicants and the council.

Police meeting

RESIDENTS in Halesowen can raise issues with police at a meeting on August 16. It will run from 10am to noon at Halesowen Library in Queensway Mall with officers from Halesowen South police team.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE Church of England has ditched the Devil from baptisms, so can we assume that Hell is no longer with us? If so, we will need a new range of expressions. It was announced this week that the Church is planning to use positive discrimination to hand out bishops' jobs to female priests. So if you are a newly-ordained male priest, what are your chances of making it to the top, now that 'a cat in hell's chance' is redundant?

AND off, on a blissfully warm summer's evening, to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre where Stratford Coughing Society seems to be out in force. One person coughs and two or three others join in. Some are subdued "ahems" but others simply cough, hackety-hack, open-mouthed over the folks in front. This is probably nothing new. In the excellent 1998 film Shakespeare in Love, the Bard (Joseph Fiennes) rages: "You see? The consumptives plot against me. 'Will Shakespeare has a play, let us go and cough through it'."

A READER who happens to be a retired cop, complains bitterly about the lack of interest, let alone response, he got from dialling the 101 non-emergency number. This alternative to 999 is, quite literally, a cop-out. According to the Police UK website, 'non-emergency' incidents for which 101 is deemed suitable are: Your car has been stolen, your property damaged or if you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood. And if you spot fly-tipping or damage of public property, the cops don't want to know about it at all. Apparently such incidents are a matter for your local council. There is no better way to cut crime than to decriminalise criminal behaviour. And you wonder why the figures for recorded crime keep falling?

JEREMY Paxman's replacement on Newsnight is the openly gay Evan Davis. There is much speculation about how the tattooed and (allegedly) intimately pierced Mr Davis will tackle the big interviews. One commentator says his appointment will reinforce the BBC's diversity agenda and bring "a light touch." The implication is that a gay inquisitor will be gentler than Paxo because that's what gays are like, right? Consider this. Staffordshire Police, thanks to its diversity employment policies, is proud to be known as one of Britain's most gay-friendly employers. You are more likely to encounter a gay bobby in Staffordshire than anywhere else in Britain. So is the constabulary full of "light touch" bobbies? Not exactly. A survey this week reveals that you are more likely to be Tasered by cops in Staffordshire than in any other county. Explain that.

QUIETLY, very quietly, while all eyes were on Gaza and Ukraine, Whitehall made a tiny announcement. Until now, for every year you delay drawing your state pension, its value increases by 10.4 per cent. From 2016 this will be cut to 5.8 per cent. Just like that. There are lies, damned lies and pension promises.

SO there is to be a full inquiry into the death by poisoning in 2006 of the former KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko. Any chance of an inquiry into the death of Dr David Kelly who was found dead during the Iraq war inquiry in 2003? I guess not. How strange it is that the death of a foreigner, probably murdered by his own people, gets proper attention but our own Dr Kelly, a national hero and a hugely principled man, has been denied even an inquest.

ONE of the most impressive statistics to emerge from the Ukraine airline disaster is that at the moment it happened, there were an estimated 10,000 airliners in the skies. Those Wright Brothers really started something.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Group has three months to raise £10k

CAMPAIGNERS have three months to raise £10,000 to buy an historic walled garden in Halesowen.

Halesowen Abbey Trust are poised to sign an agreement to buy contract with site owners Birmingham Metropolitan College.

The heritage group will then have just 12 weeks to raise the rest of the purchase price to complete the deal to buy the historic garden, which dates back to 1790. The community group originally needed an additional £20,000 but after a £10,000 donation by A & J Mucklow Group Plc, the community group now have until mid October to raise the outstanding funds.

Mick Freer, acting honorary secretary of the trust, is confident it can be done. He said: "We have had some very generous individual donations but we still need support. There is a risk because if we do not raise the remainder we will lose the deposit but I am not going to let that happen. One way or another we will raise the money,."

The garden is on the Leasowes Estate and the trust plan to start restoration work immediately once they own the site. The trust is looking for local businesses who would like to donate towards the price of the 1.85 acre sites.

Mr Freer added: "It really is a fantastic place. Buying it is just the first phase, next we will look at restoring it to its former glory."

Campaigners are holding a fundraising concert on August 16 at Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club. Tickets cost £10 and include a buffet. Call 07952406378.

Health bosses move to ease parking concerns

HEALTH bosses have created more parking spaces at Russells Hall Hospital in a bid to quell concerns over plans for a day clinic.

Plans are in the pipeline to move the borough's walk-in health centre from the Holly Hall clinic to the hospital. But the move has meet with concern from those worried about the impact on parking at the busy hospital.

Residents have long complained about cars clogging up residential roads near the hospital.

Now health chiefs have revealed they have reduced staff parking to ease visitor parking pressure.

Bosses also pointed out that while there was currently only nine parking spaces at the Holly Hall clinic, there were significantly more at the hospital.

Members of Dudley Council's health scrutiny committee had tabled their concerns with Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, which is behind the plans, and the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust which runs Russells Hall Hospital.

Health bosses said: "NHS Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group and The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust are confident the existing parking provision at Russells Hall Hospital will not be significantly affected by the opening of the new Urgent Care Centre early next year.

"Significant efforts have been made by The Dudley

By Andrew Turton

Group to free up additional parking spaces at the hospital, including greatly reducing staff parking on the car park near to the maternity entrance.

"These have had a positive impact on parking availability, even at the busiest times of the day.

"The system of triaging patients that will be operated at the Urgent Care Centre aims in part to significantly reduce the number of patients attending the Emergency Department, by treating or redirecting non-urgent patients to appropriate care. Those with a minor condition will be seen by a GP or nurse. This should reduce time on site.

"We will continue to work together to ensure any parking issues that arise are addressed."

Scrutiny committee member Derrick Hemingsley said: "I still have concerns. They need to look more into overflow car parking."

Fashion store to open

FASHION retailers Simply Be and Jacamo have announced plans to open at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Around 30 jobs will be created at the dual store at the shopping centre in Brierley Hill this summer.

The Merry Hill launch is part of parent group N Brown Group PLC's plans to open seven new stores before the end of the year, including Birmingham

The 7,946 sqft store will provide a selection of men's and women's fashion.

Simply Be is a young fashion collection and Jacamo offers fashion for men.

Margaret's hug for her hero

Margaret Bright from Rainbow Street, Coseley, with her rescuer Paul Hickinbottom

A TAXI driver who carried an elderly woman to safety after a fire has been praised for his bravery — and got a thank you hug off the 82-year-old he saved.

Paul Hickinbottom smashed through a door to the apartment block home of Margaret Bright after spotting smoke in a ground floor flat. The 40-year-old braved thick smoke to get to Mrs Bright's upstairs flat before carrying her out in his arms at Rainbow Street, Coseley, just before 7pm on July 21.

Mrs Bright, who has lived in her flat for 27 years, described Mr Hickinbottom as her hero. "I did what any normal neighbour would do. It was nothing really," said the cabbie from Poole Crescent."Paul came in and carried me out. He's my hero, " said Mrs Bright.

Anthony Lewis, aged 51, of Rainbow Street, has been charged with arson and threatening behaviour and committed to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 15. He was remanded in custody.

Suspended sentence for prolific shoplifter

A SHOPLIFTER with a lengthy record of convictions has avoided an immediate jail term after stealing meat, cheese and alcohol.

Sean Fitzgerald stole meat from Co-op in Stourbridge, meat and cheese from Sainsbury's in Wordsley and four bottles of brandy from Co-op in Kingswinford over a four day period, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

He broke two bottles of wine while attempting to leave the Kingswinford store on May 17.

Mr Nicholas Burn, prosecuting, said the 39-year-old was stopped coming out of the Co-op store in Kingswinford carrying the wine. He added: "There are numerous convictions going back quite some time for many offences of dishonesty."

Fitzgerald, of Armstrong Close, Stourbridge, pleaded guilty to three counts of theft and one of destroying property in May. Mr Daniel Oscroft, mitigating, said Fitzgerald had outstanding fines and asked that no order be made for costs or compensation.

Judge Michael Dudley told him: "You have an appalling record undoubtedly because of your drug addiction." Fitzgerald was handed a six month jail term, suspended for 12 months.

Police seize machinery

SUSPECTED stolen machinery has been seized by police following two police warrants being served on homes in Hawbush.

Officers carried out the raids as part of a crackdown on thefts from commercial and residential properties.

At one of homes, police found a strimmer, power digger and drill in the back garden.

PC Stuart Lewis said: "This is the first warrants we have carried out as part of a crackdown on thieves. Our investigations are continuing and more addresses will be targeted."

Five homes plan

FIVE homes will be built on a former coach park under new plan.

Capital Design Partnership has lodged an application for homes on land between Himley Road and The Spinney in Gornal Wood. It was used as a parking area for a coach firm.

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Robinson	Willey Firegem Visa 2 (Radiant)	£269 - £10 Trade-in
Flavel	Firenza (Radiant)	£229 -£10 Trade-in

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'Lights out' to honour war dead of 1914-18

A CANDLELIGHT service will take place joining national commemorations marking 100 years since the start of the First World War.

The 'Lights Out' initiative is a nationwide event on Monday where households and communities are encouraged to switch off their lights between 10pm and 11pm, leaving one solitary light or candle.

A service will be taking place at the Clock Tower, in Priory Street, Dudley opposite the town's museum and art gallery, where people are invited to light candles in a moment of reflection, hope and peace.

The aim is to light one million candles across the country to remember the service men and women who died for their country between 1914 and 1918.

People can also get involved by simply turning out the lights at their home.

The service in Dudley town centre will start at 9.50pm. Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston said: "The 'Lights Out' event is a perfect opportunity for people to come together and reflect. The service allows people to mark the occasion and remember those who fought for us all those years ago."

Man accused of sex assaults

A FORMER care worker has appeared before magistrates accused of sexually assaulting five women.

Dauda Kamara is charged with one count of rape and seven of sexual assault on dates between January 1, 2008, and April 13, 2012.

Kamara, 45, of Charles Road, Handsworth, spoke only to confirm his personal details during a short hearing at Dudley Magistrates Court.

He was committed to Wolverhampton Crown Court for a plea and case management hearing on October 15.

Magistrates granted him bail until the next hearing.

Arrest after crash

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of car theft after a crash.

A 25-year-old from Wolverhampton was arrested by Staffordshire Police following the accident in Wodehouse Lane in Gospel End, Sedgley, in the early hours of July 14.

Former MEP is charged with expenses fraud

Ex-MEP Nikki Sinclaire

A FORMER MEP has been charged with money laundering and misconduct in public office after an inquiry into her expense claims.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said Nikki Sinclaire, who lost her seat in the European Parliament earlier this year, had been charged with the offences by West Midlands Police.

A CPS spokesman said the offences were alleged to have been committed while the 45-year-old was a serving MEP for the West Midlands between October 2009 and July 2010. Miss Sinclaire lost her seat at May's European elections after leaving Ukip and standing for the We Demand A Referendum Now party.

Court

A police spokesman said: "West Midlands Police's Economic Crime Unit has formally charged former MEP Nicole Sinclaire with misconduct in public office and money laundering.

"Ms Sinclaire is due to appear at Birmingham Magistrates' Court on September, 17 where she will hear claims that she made false and dishonest submissions for travelling expenses and transferred the proceeds of fraud through a bank account in her name.

"The offences are alleged to have taken place between 1 October 2009 and 31 July 2010 when Ms Sinclaire was a serving Member of the European Parliament.

" West Midlands Police has been working jointly with officers from the European Anti-Fraud Office."

Miss Sinclaire, of Shirley, was originally arrested in February 2012 and has since been on police bail.

In a separate statement, Simon Orme, a specialist lawyer with the CPS Special Crime Division, said: "Ms Sinclaire has also been charged with misconduct in a public office with regard to her actions."

Miss Sinclaire said: "I strongly refute these charges and will be firmly defending myself. I am certain I shall be found innocent of these ludicrous and unfounded accusations."

More than 700 oppose proposals for waste plant

MORE than 700 people have backed a campaign against a waste recycling plant at Brierley Hill.

Clear Power has applied to the Environment Agency for a permit to operate the plant at the former Brierley Hill Steel Terminal off Moor Street.

Following the end of a month-long consultation, campaign group Say No tO Waste (SNOW) say they have forwarded 707 letters of objection to the agency.

The group has also sent a map showing up to 600 homes, with up to 2,000 residents, that it claims will be at risk from odours if the planned plant was built.

Although the Environment Agency said the plant could result in smells when plans were first lodged, Clean Power has always stated the plant will not cause an odour.

Talks

However, in a submission to the Environment Agency, members of SNOW are calling for talks to be opened with the director of public heath at Dudley Council.

They claim exposure odours for people living as close as 75 feet from the plant could cause coughing or other breathing problems. They have also called for a survey to be carried out on noise levels in the area.

SNOW spokesman Timothy Lee said: "Risks to health and well-being arising from offensive odours were cited with a primary school so close to the site, as well as houses and flats only a few metres away."

The plant would process 195,000 tons of waste each year and create 30 jobs. It will generate enough electricity to power up to 10,000 homes a year. If approved, the company will still need planning permission from Dudley Council.

Three men are denying acid attack

THREE men have appeared in court in connection with a doorstep acid attack which left a 19-year-old woman critically ill.

Mohammed Rafiq, aged 79, of Cheshire Road, Smethwick, Steven Holmes, 25, of Washington Street, Birmingham, and Shannon Heaps, 22, of Queens Avenue, Tividale, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

They each denied a charge of wounding with intent on April 15.

Vikki Horsman suffered 'life-changing' internal injuries and burns to her face and chest after answering the door of a property in MacDonald Close, Tividale, near Dudley.

Rafiq also denied a charge of perverting the course of justice between April 14 and 18 and is accused of providing witness statements to police that contained false information.

The case last Thursday was adjourned for a case management hearing on September 4.

All three defendants were remanded in custody.

Zoo's Bear Ravine being restored

Apprentice Aaron Gelder and specialist surface repairer Martin Baker are pictured at the former bear enclosure

AN ICONIC animal enclosure dating back to the 1930s is being restored at Dudley Zoo.

Scaffolding has gone up around the historic Bear Ravine, one of the Castle Hill attraction's historic Tecton buildings, ahead of work getting under way on the latest phase of the £1.15millon project.

Work on the Bear Ravine, which has not housed bears for around 30 years, follows completion of the zoo's Safari Shop, providing a new entrance to the zoo from the extended car park.

Work on Bear Ravine was expected to be completed in October or November and it has not been decided if animals will be moved into the enclosure or if it will be left as a public space.

Techniques

As part of the scheme, the building will be restored using traditional concrete techniques.

It will also be restored to its original colour, mainly sky blue but with some grey and terracotta elements as well.

The aim of the scheme will be to restore the structure to how it looked when first opened in the late 1930s.

As part of the work a kiosk near the enclosure is also being revamped. As layers of paint have been stripped away it has revealed an old Teddy Grays sign advertising Dudley rock.

The Tecton buildings at the zoo were created by Berthold Lubetkin's Tecton Group. and have received World Monuments Fund status, alongside such monumental icons as Machu Picchu and the Taj Mahal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Merry Hill gets customer award

MERRY Hill shopping centre has received an award for its customer service.

The shopping destination in Brierley Hill has been awarded one of the highest accolades from the Institute of Customer Service ServiceMark.

Hundreds of shoppers took part in surveys and spoke to visiting assessors in the centre about their experiences at Merry Hill. Spokeswoman Kelly Reed said: "We loved hearing what our customers had to say about their visits to the centre, and we heard some really inspiring ideas."

House plan for former care home

A DERELICT former nursing home in Stourbridge will be turned into a house after plans were approved.

The nursing home on the corner of Clifton Street and Beale Street was opened in the 1980s but today it remains vacant.

A planning application to convert the building into a family home was approved by Dudley Council last week.

Council offficers said use of the building as a home would result in less disturbance for nearby residents.

Dinner raised £1,100 for hospice

A CHARITY dinner organised by a Stourbridge restaurant has raised more than £1,000 for charity.

Indiluxe restaurant at Audnam in Amblecote hosted a fundraising dinner in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice and the evening raised £1,100. Diners were entertained by magicians and bhangra dancers. Owner Hamdu Mia said: "We were delighted with how the night went."

Van damaged by blaze in a skip

A VAN was damaged during a skip fire at an industrial estate in Dudley.

Fire crews were called to the blaze outside Micklewrights Structures on the Thornleigh Trading Estate just after 10pm last Wednesday night.

The fire resulted in minor damage to a white van that was parked nearby.

Car hits lamp post

A MAN escaped injury when his car hit a lamp post in Stourbridge in the early hours. Fire crews were called to the crash in South Road just before 1am last Thursday. The driver was uninjured.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

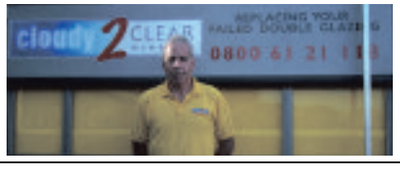
It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IT LOOKS like the end for the West Midlands' answer to Posh and Becks, with Danielle Lloyd and Jamie O'Hara having reportedly split after claims that the Wolves midfielder had been playing away - well playing at the family home actually - with a blonde he met at a nightclub.

The news will no doubt cause a bit of bewilderment among Wolves fans. Not at the fact that footballers occasionally like to dabble in a bit of extra time, which is hardly big news. But how can a single item of clothing have such a big effect on your performance? After all, he never seemed to be able to score in a Wolves shirt.

❒❒❒

A BRIEF recap. Saddam Hussein refused to hand over weapons that did not actually exist, so we invaded his country, and had him sent to the gallows.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin supplies his supporters with a giant missile launcher which is used to shoot down a passenger jet, claiming 10 British lives. And the response? We suggest he is not a fit person to host the World Cup. The bigger they come, the harder they fall? Yeah, right.

❒❒❒

JUST when you thought our politicians couldn't get any more ridiculous, it emerges Ed Miliband has been taking advice from Ali G's brother.

Simon Baron-Cohen, brother of comedian Sacha, has been tasked with sharpening up the Labour leader's image. You know, giving him a bit of gravitas, that kind of thing.

This can only be good news. Who wouldn't love to see the leader of the Opposition turning up to Prime Minister's Questions in a yellow shell suit? Or he could woo the green vote by addressing the house in one of Borat's lime-coloured mankinis. Maybe draw the line at suggesting he could support Walsall's leather industry by wearing a pair of hide-bound Bruno's shorts, but who knows, it could catch on.

Respect, man. Total respect.

❒❒❒

APPARENTLY, this country is now so skint that there are 300,000 people in this country who cannot afford to go bankrupt. I must say, I was a little surprised until I read it cost a whopping £700 to file a bankruptcy order. Wha-a-at? How does that work? Surely if you have £700 knocking about, you are not actually bankrupt in the first place?

❒❒❒

ABOUT the debate of whether libraries should remove sex offender Rolf Harris's books and CDs from their shelves. Some say they might offend people who see them, others say they we shouldn't censor what people read or listen to. I simply say: what is the point?

If anybody fancies going down to their local library and asking for Two Little Boys from the record collection, then they are a braver man than me.

Tommy Mundon, Dolly Allen and Harry Harrison

Ken Dodd at Dudley Town Hall with Tommy in 2004

Tommy with his first ever DVD at his home in 2008

Farewell Tommy, king of the loffs

Mark Andrews takes an affectionate look back at the life of Black Country entertainer Tommy Mundon

THE irony was not lost on Tommy Mundon when he was forced to retire after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

"I'm now a stand-up comedian who can't stand up for long," he said. And after a five-year battle with the illnesses, the king of Black Country comedy recently died, four months after celebrating his 80th birthday.

His act was a throwback to another age, littered with colourful anecdotes about close-knit communities and pigs in the back yard. He evoked images of the simple joys of life, of happiness in times of adversity.

Legend

Ken Dodd, a close friend of Tommy's for more than 20 years, paid tribute to the man who spent more than half a century making the Black Country laugh.

Dodd, who last saw Tommy last year, spoke of his sadness at the passing of the Black Country comedy legend.

"I am extremely saddened to hear the news," he said. "He was a wonderful friend and a wonderful comedian. And he was more than a comedian, he was a humorist, he knew all the Black Country stories.

"I admired him hugely. I had known Tommy for a long time and he became a very good friend, and he was a great personality."

Friend Alan Smith, known under his stage name Aynuk, had appeared with him on stage numerous times over the past 50 years. The 76-year-old from Netherton, Dudley, recalled Tommy's pride in the Black Country. "Tommy was a proper Black Countrymon," he said. "He was a familiar face. He could not go anywhere without being recognised. He was an ambassador for the Black Country."

A youthful-looking Tommy seen in his on-stage outfit here in April, 1977

A lifelong resident of Halesowen – he was a pupil of the County Modern Boys' School, now Windsor High School – Tommy was a born showman. "I've always been the clown – right from school," he said. He recalled putting on his first show at the age of four or five when he was growing up in the town's Chapel Street. "I lived in a terraced house, with a double entry which went from front to back. I put up a curtain at the back which I would use as my backdrop. That was my first performance."

At school, his teachers discovered he had a knack for keeping classes amused with stories he had made up.

But it was his fundraising efforts for Hasbury Methodist church which gave him his first real taste of the limelight.

"I don't know what it was, but I had this talent for making people laugh," he said. "A chap called Alan Bissell persuaded me to have a go on my own, and he wrote me a sketch, and before you knew it I we were doing clubs and Rotary dinners." One thing he could not do was stick to his script.

"Right from the start I was ad-libbing a lot," he said. "I was probably 14 or 15 on my first show. It went very well though. In those days, folks would laugh at anything."

In the early 1970s he joined the Black Country Night Out show, performing with popular Black Country comics Dolly Allen and Doug Parker, poet Harry Harrison and folk singer Jon Raven.

But at this time he was better known as part of the MWM light entertainment troupe, which saw team up with Opportunity Knocks winners Tony and Keith West, and singer Linda Marsh.

Canada

By the late 70s his act was going global, with several of his tapes being sold to Black Country expats living abroad. In 1979 the Black Country Night Out show went on tour in Canada, but Tommy was not part of it due to his job as a lorry driver for Dudley Council.

"I was the only one who had a day job," he recalled. "They told me I could take a month's holiday from work, but I wouldn't get paid."

The highlight of his career came when he performed in front of a packed Symphony Hall in Birmingham a few years ago. "It holds around 2,000 people, and I remember walking out onto the stage.

"If you can get a few laughs at the beginning, it builds your confidence, and when 2,000 people started laughing it was wonderful."

Tommy continued to be in huge demand right up until the moment he was forced to end his showbusiness career in 2012. His act was rooted in a rose-tinted image of a Black Country which never existed, and the audiences couldn't get enough of it. With his passing, another link to the Black Country of old, is lost forever. We shall not see his like again.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

"A GOVERNMENT, which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

So said George Bernard Shaw. And now we're starting to see that in action with council tax benefit.

The benefit was scrapped last year because ministers said the welfare bill had doubled under Labour. Local authorities were left to their own devices in how to deal with people who had previously been getting their council tax bills paid for them.

They were given the option of either cutting the benefit, scrapping discounts for people with second homes and empty properties or plugging the gap by using their own limited funds.

But they could not cut benefits for pensioners or change the 25 per cent discount for single adult households.

Wolverhampton City Council's plan has been amended this week as it continues to grapple with £123 million of cuts and the prospect of 2,000 job losses.

Around 18,500 households with working-age adults are now set to see their council tax bills soar by 83 per cent.

That sounds enormous, but it's worth bearing in mind they weren't paying that much in the first place.

Since the changes came into effect last year a family on benefits in a Band A house was paying about £120 a year.

That's going to go up to £220.

It might not seem like much for the year, but if you're in a household that needs benefits to get by, £220 is massive.

Either way, this can only be a temporary solution. Even in cold, purely statistical terms, taxpayers will end up paying somehow, either for the benefits or through reduced council services.

The best way to cut the benefits bill is to cut the number of people who have to rely on benefits.

That means lots of private sector jobs, paid at a wage people can live off without needing support while also paying tax and filled by a workforce skilled in the trades employers want.

The UKIP problem for the Tories is not going away. And despite what UKIP would like to think about its appeal to working class voters, it is the Conservatives it is hitting the hardest, to Labour's benefit.

Take the latest polling by Tory peer Lord Ashcroft, who helped bankroll much of the campaigning in marginal seats in 2010.

His survey shows Labour are on course to regain Wolverhampton South West next year.

Yet UKIP is the biggest beneficiary in terms of the swing from other parties, taking 11 per cent more votes than in 2010 from the sample reported.

Labour has increased its support by seven per cent. But if that result moves from the poll to the ballot box, that's all it's going to need. A win's a win.

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Stripes are part of football history

I KNOW much has been said on this subject but I could rest no longer.

It was with some dismay that I viewed the new football kit of West Bromwich Albion.

I could not help feeling that not only the person who designed it but also the person who sanctioned it are flying in the face, not only of over 125 years of Albion history, but of football history in general.

Despite what some presenters at the BBC might like to think, West Bromwich Albion as members of the original Football League are part of football history along with our rivals from Wolverhampton and Aston. We had in the 1970s a brush with a broader stripe but at least in was recognisable as blue and white stripes.

So yes, as I say to those responsible for this change, we do have a pin stripe but to all intent and purpose it is a white shirt.

So, as I have said, over 125 years of football history are cast aside at a whim.

E J JOHNSON
Smethwick

Never too old to use computers

CONCERNING pensioners using computers.

I have been using one for more than ten years and I would not be without it.

I email friends and relations in Australia and send photos which are on their screen in a few seconds.

I also shop online, bank online and keep in touch with friends and relations by email.

I can find out the time of my bus and if I want to buy something I can have a look at it and compare prices, etc, without leaving the room.

I have to admit that in the early stages you may wish to look for a very large hammer to demolish your computer but you must be patient and it will all come right.

So, for anyone thinking about having a go with a computer, I say go for it.

Oh, and I almost forgot, I am 94 years old.

L GROUT
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Anglian church still has lots of life in it

I FELT there was a critical, angry tone in two snippets of Peter Rhodes' column of July 24, which seemed to be ungainly swipes at churches.

Without evidence, he stated that the Church of England is 'a clapped-out organisation' that has only a few years left.

Let me give reasons for my view that the Church of England has lots of life in it.

St James, at Eve Hill, serves my local area through events, such as fairs, that bring the community together.

Dropping into a parish church this week, I was impressed by the breadth of support given to individuals and groups, for example, visiting prisoners and encouraging victims (both children and adults) of domestic violence.

An Anglican church where I was a member contributed to a successful bid for regeneration funding for a run-down area, helped the community steward the funds and pioneered a 'New Hope' project.

This helped recruit volunteers for much-needed services.

Another Anglican church I've been part of has helped me, and millions of other people worldwide, through the Alpha Course – see www.alpha.org – and I warmly commend it to Mr Rhodes and all readers.

SIMON TOWNEND
Malthouse Drive
Dudley

Black Country made in Taiwan

BEING caught up in the enthusiasm of Black Country Day, my wife and I decided to buy a flag.

We were too late, as all stocks had been sold out by last weekend.

But our trail to purchase one took us to the 'Cone' in Wordsley.

My wife purchased four. There was one each for our sons who live in The Lake District and America, one for a friend who lives in Birmingham — OK, he is not Black country but he gets flags from wherever and flies them on his caravan flag pole as the mood takes him — and one for us.

Whey did these Black Country Day flags have to be 'Made in Taiwan'?

Cannot such things be made in the UK at least?

P COLE
Kingswinford

What about the scallops?

THURSDAY evening flipping channels on telly, I came across John Torode's Australia.

In the programme he visited a fish and chip shop. He ordered a meal which included potato cakes. He said they were a potato cooked in batter. Correct.

He has lived in England for 20 years. He said no one in England cooked this.

In the Midlands they're well known as scallops.

I wonder if he has ever been in a high street or corner fish shop in his life.

S BRIDGER
Wordsley

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Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today, He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 20 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

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"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for "advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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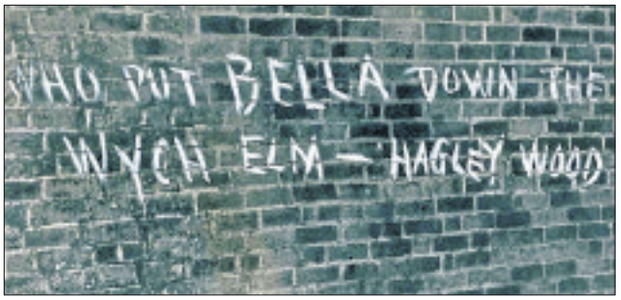

Another cryptic graffiti message scrawled on a wall relating to the murder

The infamous wych elm showing where the body was found

Thomas Willetts, who raised the alarm, pictured talking with a neighbour 10 years later

Gestapo agent Josef Jakobs was shot by a firing squad

Steve Punt searched through archives at the Express & Star

Investigating Bella down the Wych Elm

MEMORY LANE

By Mark Andrews

IT WAS late April in 1943, the sun was setting behind the Clent Hills and four teenage boys were foraging around Lord Cobham's estate on a poaching expedition in Hagley Woods.

One of them clambered up a tree, looking for a bird's nest, but what he found would haunt him for the rest of his days. The tree, known as the 'wych elm' due to its sinister appearance, was hollow. As 15-year-old Bob Farmer glanced down, the empty eye sockets of a skull glared back.

Fearful that police might have asked awkward questions about what he was doing up the tree in the first place, after a quick examination of the gruesome find, Bob put the skull back. He and friends Bob Hart, Tom Willetts and Fred Payne, returned to their homes in Wollescote, hoping that would be the end of the matter. Tom, the youngest, found the secret too hard to keep and told his parents.

Police found the skeleton of a young woman inside the hollowed-out tree. Across the fields they found her severed hand.

Graffiti bearing the message 'who put Bella down the Wych Elm' began appearing on walls in the area. But the mystery of who Bella was — let alone who was responsible for her death — has continued to confound both police and amateur sleuths for decades.

It is a riddle which brought comedian Steve Punt to the Express & Star head office in Wolverhampton, as he launched his own investigation into one of Worcestershire's most infamous unsolved crimes for his BBC Radio 4 series Punt PI.

For many years the most popular theory was that 'Bella' had been murdered in some kind of black magic ritual. Then a theory involving Nazi spies gained weight when MI5 published wartime files, which detail the interrogation of Czech-born Gestapo agent Josef Jakobs who was arrested by the Home Guard after parachuting into Cambridgeshire in January 1941. He was found to have been carrying a photograph of the German cabaret singer and movie star Clara Bauerle, who he said was his lover. He told his interrogators that Bauerle had been recruited as a secret agent but claimed she had yet to parachute into England,

Bauerle would have been 35 and had spent two years working music halls of the West Midlands during the late 1930s. She was said to have spoken English with a Midland accent. It hardly takes a great leap of imagination from Clara Bauerle to Clara Bella. Even more intriguingly, she apparently disappeared without trace in 1941. Jakobs was shot by firing squad on August 15, 1941, the last man to be executed at the Tower of London.

The Punt PI programme on Bella in the Wych Elm will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4 at 10.30am on Saturday.

Singer and film star Clara Bauerle — was she Bella in the Wych Elm?

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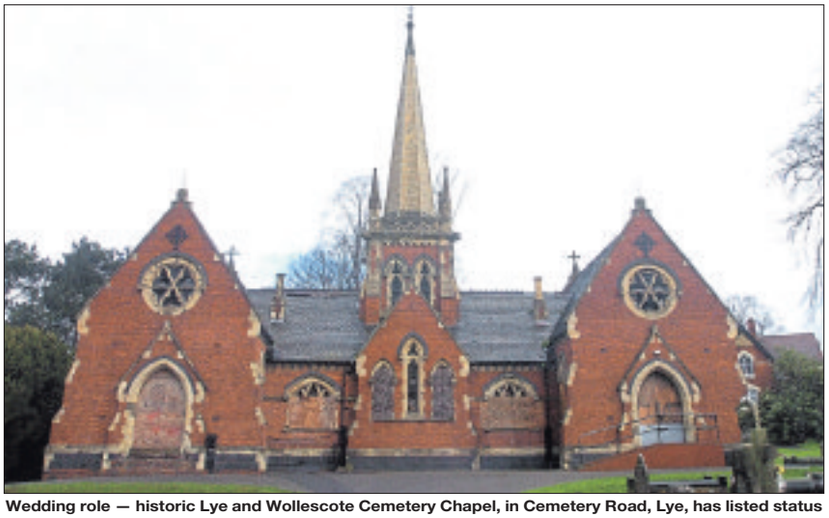
Historic chapel is to become register office



Wedding role — historic Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel, in Cemetery Road, Lye, has listed status

AN HISTORIC chapel will become a second register office for Dudley borough after officials approved the plan.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust submitted proposals for the change of use at the Grade-II listed Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel.

It will now be used as a venue for civil ceremonies after Dudley Council's development control committee approved the change.

The disused building, which dates back to the 19th century, was sold to building preservation charity the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust.

Alongside the change of use, the project will see internal work carried to create a waiting lobby and two receptions near to the main entrance. There will also be a meeting room and waiting room to the west side of the building and a wedding ceremony room on the eastern side of the buildings.

An office for staff, a larger car park providing 25 car parking spaces and the introduction of an access ramp also form part of the plans. Access to the chapel will also be improved during the work and coloured glass window re-introduced.

The building has not been in use since 1993 and is a rare surviving example of a cemetery chapel.

It is planned the building will eventually be leased back to Dudley Council for use as a registration office.

Dudley Council retains ownership of the graveyard at the chapel and officials said the memorials there would be protected and given the proper respect.

Chairman Councillor Qadar Zada said: "This is an exceptional building and one which dominates the area."

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Painting of castle has been on display for a century

IT is one of the most popular paintings at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and it has now been on public display for 100 years.

The oil painting called The Parade of the Loyal Association 9th August 1798 by Thomas Phillips is in the Dudley Council collection and features the interior of Dudley Castle courtyard as it appeared in the late 18th Century.

It shows soldiers in their red coat, flanked by cavalry in the blue while crowds watch from slope by the castle keep. In the foreground a small party of ladies and one gentleman watch the parade as it passes.

The parade was held to celebrate the 21st birthday of the Hon J W Ward, son of the third Viscount Dudley. Ward later became Earl of Dudley and secretary of state for foreign affairs.

The museum originally acquired the sketch for the painting in 1913 with the completed oil painting being purchased by public subscription a year later.

Culture boss Councillor Hilary Bills, said it has always been a popular exhibit with people visiting the museum and art gallery in St James's Road.

Popular

She said: "This has always been one of our most popular paintings as it features the iconic Dudley Castle.

"It was originally paid for by public subscription so it seems fitting that it's still on display 100 years later for a whole new generation of Dudley residents."

The museumis open 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday. Admission is free.

The oil painting called The Parade of the Loyal Association 9th August 1798 by Thomas Phillips

Service honours Cradley role in war

A SERVICE to commemorate the centenary of the First World War will take place in Cradley on Sunday.

The Royal British Legion will lead the remembrance service with bugler Stephen Bradley at Overend Methodist Mission.

Of 16 million people killed during the four-year conflict were at least 133 young men from Cradley.

Residents will be talking about ancestors who fought for their country and extracts from the letters of Cradley servicemen will be read out.

Candles will be lit to recognise the part played by women, to remember those who had a conscientious objection to war and to acknowledge those from the British Empire who gave their lives.

Baroness Alicia Kennedy of Cradley and James Morris MP will be among those attending.

Margaret Bradley, from Overend Methodist Mission in Banners Lane, said, 'This promises to be a very moving occasion."

The service starts at 6pm. If anyone would like a name read out, they can contact Margaret on (01384) 567274.

Teenaged driver gets ban after police chase

A TEENAGE learner driver who abandoned his car after a police chase — only to be caught because of his distinctive haircut — has been handed a community order and driving ban.

By Lisa O'Brien

Patrolling officers noticed Ashley Greenwood's hair style during the pursuit and when they later saw him walking in the area he was recognised, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week.

The 19-year-old drove away at speed when the officers pulled up behind his £150 Vauxhall Corsa near the Merry Hill centre in Brierley Hill. He reached speeds of over 50mph in a 30mph limit.

Red

Greenwood then went through traffic lights on red, forcing other drivers to veer out of the way to avoid being hit, said Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting.

He told Wolverhampton Crown Court that the officers gave up the chase but then saw the parked Corsa and picked out the teenager who was on foot because of his unusual haircut.

Greenwood, of Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, admitted driving dangerously and without insurance or a licence.

Miss Blondelle Thompson, mitigating, told the court that Greenwood had panicked when he saw the police car.

She said: "He made an extremely rash decision to drive away. The car has now been destroyed and he knows his foolish actions have cost him the money he paid for the vehicle.

"He has learned a hard lesson," she added

Greenwood was placed on supervision for 12 months and was disqualified from driving for 18 months.

He was also ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work and to obey an eight week curfew between the hours of 7pm and 7am.

Judge Philip Parker QC told Greenwodd that he had acknowledged when interviewed by police after his arrest that his driving could have led to a fatality.

The judge said if he had hit someone during the chase he would have been put behind bars for 'many, many years'.

Judge Parker added: "You stupidly bought this car when you could not afford to drive."

He told Greenwood that now he had a conviction for dangerous driving he would find it extremely difficult to obtain motoring insurance in the future.

"Your ambition to drive has now virtually ceased," said the judge.

MP's role as 'eyes and ears' of leader

A BLACK Country MP has become the 'eyes and ears' of former foreign secretary William Hague in his new role as Leader of the House of Commons.

Margot James, MP for Stourbridge becomes the Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr Hague following the recent cabinet reshuffle. Her role will be to keep him in touch with backbench opinion.

Miss James said: "It will involve me being his eyes and ears around Parliament and bringing to his attention MPs' views on certain issues.

"I will help him prepare for his weekly question time. Most minister face them every month but the Prime Minister and Leader of the House do so every week."

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris is PPS to employment minister Esther McVey and has held the role since January. Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire, remains PPS to the Prime Minister.

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Luxury apartments to revive The Waterfront

A DESERTED office block will be transformed into 181 luxury apartments under multi-million pound plans.

The Landmark, formerly Point North, at the Waterfront canal-side complex in Brierley Hill had laid vacant for five years but in under a year it could have up to 300 people living there.

Developer Seven Capital has revealed plans for a seven-storey office block consisting of 136 one-bed flats, 37 two-beds and eight studios including six luxury rooftop penthouse apartments.

Investors

The total resale value of the properties will be more than £20 million, with prices starting at £83,000 for a one-bedroom apartment. Already 37 properties have been snapped up by investors.

Managing director Phil Carlin said he was excited by the prospect and hoped the work would 'provide the building with a new lease of life'.

Work on the transformation will begin this month with targeted completion of the entire project by August next year.

Mr Carlin said the firm was excited about the project: "Our plan is turn the former office block into the premier residential development of the Black Country.

"We had been looking at the site for some time, and when the opportunity arose we went for it.

"The building is perfect for residential apartments, with many affording features such as balconies with wide views over the area."

He added: "The setting is fantastic too. You have a canal passing by with shops nearby and great transport links.

Phil Carlin at the development site

Artist's impression of the new apartments

"I'm sure it will provide a great home for many people wanting to be in the area."

Seven Capital purchased the office block, formerly used by insurance firm Egg not long after West Bromwich Building Society pulled out of a project to take over the 141,000 sq ft site last year.

The developers have planning permissionfrom Dudley Council.

Mr Carlin added: "It's a fantastic opportunity for anyone because as a new build, these apartments would be going for a lot more. As the building is up already and we have managed to get the place at a good price, we are able to sell at an affordable price while not sacrificing the high quality we'll provide.

"This is an exciting time. I look forward to standing outside the front a year from now and welcoming people into the building.

"It will change the scene down here and hopefully lead to more businesses coming to the area."

The Waterfront was a thriving business centre 15 years ago which offered bustling night life too.

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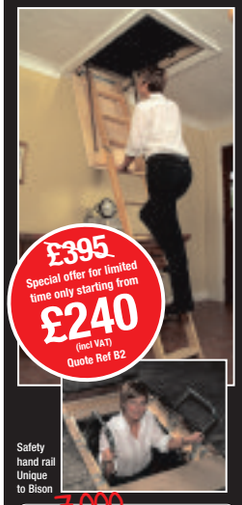

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Man, 90, rescued after bedroom fall

A 92-YEAR-OLD man was rescued by firefighters after falling from his chair behind a bedroom door.

Emergency services were alerted by the man's niece who was unable to get into the room to help him.

Crews were called to the property in Eaton Crescent, Gornal Wood, at around 2pm last Wednesday and firefighters used a ladder to get into the room via an upstairs window.

The man was checked by paramedics and taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said: "He had fell from his chair. He was in front of the bedroom door so she could not open it.

"The man was talking to her but there was no way of accessing the room.

"Crews used a ladder to access the room and the man was checked by paramedics before he was moved."

Council criticised over zero hours contracts for workers

DUDLEY Council has come under fire for employing nearly 200 workers on controversial 'zero hours' contracts.

But the authority says it employs a small number of staff on contracts where they work 'as and when required'.

Such staff include registration officers who can cover seasonal increase in the number of weddings.

But there has been criticism that staff given the contracts do not know if they have work from one week to the next.

UKIP claims the arrangements are 'hypocritical' because the council is controlled by Labour, which has been a vocal critic of such contracts.

The council has confirmed that, excluding schools, 192 employees currently have zero hour contracts out of more than 6,860 workers.

It revealed the details to Upper Gornal and Woodsetton councillor Dean Perks. He and West Midlands MEP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge said for a Labour-run authority, whose national party is to call for the 'living wage,' the use of zero hours contracts was 'hypocritical in the extreme'.

Scandalous

Councillor Perks said: "The hypocrisy of Labour is scandalous. Labour is a two-faced beast as it nationally states a commitment to bringing in the living wage then, at a grassroots level, Labour-run Dudley Council employs almost 200 staff on zero hour contracts.

"In Westminster the Labour Party claims to represent the working class then in Dudley Council House it employees people under employment conditions such as these."

Dudley Council's leader Councillor David Sparks said: "The council employs many thousands of workers and there are fewer than 200 on zero hours contracts.

"Our policy is to keep zero hours contracts to an absolute minimum.

"We consult with the trade unions and only use these arrangements when there is no alternative.

"Yet again, UKIP has opened its mouth before putting its brain in gear."

Organisations across the West Midlands have used zero hour contracts.

Information is just a click away

DUDLEY residents can now get up to the minute information about local services thanks to an online service.

The 'Find My Local' link on the Dudley Council website provides information on schools, councillors, bin collections public transport, recycling and other key information.

People simply enter their postcode and select their address, to get the relevant information for their part of the borough.

The link is part of the council's plan to share useful information and help communities.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member responsible for ICT, said: "This useful web facility is a great way for people to find out all they need to know about the services provided for them at the click of a button."

See the www.dudley.gov.uk website.

Park ranger will plan activities and events

New heritage park ranger Deborah Merrick, aged 28

A HERITAGE ranger has been appointed as part of a £2.6 million restoration project at a landmark park.

Dudley Council has secured Heritage Lottery funding to carry out work at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge.

They have recruited 28-year-old Deborah Merrick to organise a programme of activities and events at the park over the next three years.

She will be based at the park full time, in the restoration office in the tea gardens, and is working closely with The Friends of Mary Stevens Park. Her previous post was at Worcester City Council as a community engagement officer in park.

She said: "I am originally from Stourbridge so Mary Stevens Park is an important part of my own history and I know just how much it means to the thousands of people who visit it every year. This new role is full of exciting opportunities to gather information about the park's history as well as engaging the local community."

The project will include the restoration of gates, railings, bandstand and pool, war memorial and a new café.

Four new classrooms for primary school

FOUR extra classrooms will be created at a school after the scheme was given a green-light by planners.

Three single-storey developments will be built at Gigmill Primary School, Stourbridge, to house the new rooms. A staff room will also be created at the site on The Broadway.

Dudley Council's development control committee approved the scheme at a recent meeting. Eleven letters of objection were received from residents concerned the scheme would lead to a rise in traffic on minor roads.

But committee chairman Councillor Qadar Zada said the authority would work with the school on a travel plan. "This application was an excellent opportunity for improvement at the school," he said. "In terms of the traffic we will do everything we can to make the lives of people living nearby easier."

Officers recommended the plans be approved subject to conditions.

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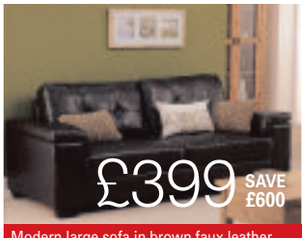

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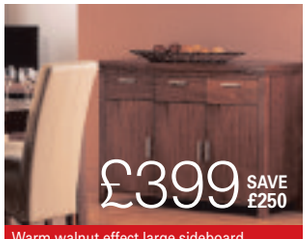

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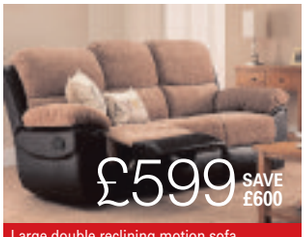

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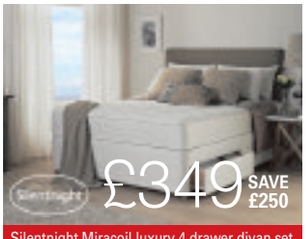

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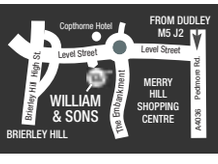

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Famous pub is making way for 12 new houses

LAST orders have been called on a famous pub which once boasted a host of famous names among its clientèle.

Bulldozers have moved in to demolish a once popular Hagley pub that counted celebrities among its customers.

Stars including Coronation Street actor Johnny Briggs and Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant are among the famous names associated with The Prince of Wales pub on the busty A491 Hagley Road, which is being replaced with homes.

But the building has lain empty for several years since it was shut down during a planning wrangle over an abandoned road scheme.

The pub was originally purchased by the Highways Agency in 1993 along with a row of nearby houses, to pave the way for the proposed six-lane £115 million Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley bypass. This was intended to tunnel under Wychbury Hill, opposite the pub, but plans for the new road were dropped in 1996.

The site of the former Prince of Wales pub is earmarked for 12 homes

Gone but not forgotten — The Prince of Wales on Hagley Road

Friends

The landlord at the time the Highways Agency bought the pub was Peter Smith, who ran the pub for well over a decade from the 1980s. He regularly welcomed his friends Larry Grayson and Isla St Clair to the venue.

Drag star Danny La Rue was also a regular visitor. He attended Mr Smith's funeral in 2002.

Coronation Street star Johnny Briggs, who played Mike Baldwin in the TV soap, lived nearby and used to pop in. Cricketer Ian Botham also enjoyed a few pints there, as did Is This The Way To Amarillo singer Tony Christie.

After he retired, in the late 1990s, Mr Smith, who was by then renting the pub from the Highways Agency, handed over the business to his adopted son James, who ran it until Ted Etheridge took it over with his son, Wayne, in the early 2002 and ran the venue until its closure in 2007.

Mr Etheridge senior, who now helps run the Britannia Sports Bar in Wollaston, said he was saddened to see the building reduced to rubble.

"It was a brilliant atmosphere and a lovely pub with the best clientèle you could want," he said. "We had Johnny Briggs' surprise 70th birthday party at the pub. It is a real shame to see it being bulldozed. It was a great place and it will be missed."

Bromsgrove District Council approved plans for the building to be demolished and 12 detached houses built it its place.

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Comedy group looking for stage hands

A THEATRE group is looking for new performers to take part in its next production based on classic fairytale Cinderella.

Members of Norton's A Comedy Theatre Group are particularly looking for people interested in the production side of theatre, especially lighting, sound and set-building, to join up.

Rehearsals for the production will begin in September and the performance held in December.

Staged

The group meets on Monday evenings at Norton Community Centre in Stourbridge and shows are staged at Gig Mill Methodist Church, Glebe Lane. People interested in getting involved are asked to call Phill on 07954 692593, email acomedytheatregroup@hotmail.co.uk or visit their site at facebook.com/stourbridgecomedy

The group was set up in 2010 to give residents the opportunity to perform in front of live audiences. It has performed many different types of shows.

Teenager is jailed for dealing heroin and crack cocaine

A TEENAGER caught selling drugs armed with a knife less than two months after being punished for a stabbing has been locked up for four years.

Jolean Gordon was spotted by a neighbour carrying out the deal in the back of a car. The 19-year-old saw the woman watching and made a gun gesture with his hand as if to 'fire' at her.

Mr Philip Beardwell, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "She saw a man get into the car and the exchange of drugs take place in the vehicle. He saw her standing at her front door, pointed at her, then made the shape of a gun with his hands and pulled a thumb down to make it look like it was being fired. Then he smiled at her.

Petrified

"She was petrified thinking that he was implying she would be killed if she said anything about what she had just seen."

But that did not stop Mrs Carol Dickens calling police and making a statement.

The car was being driven by 30-year-old Adam Jones who had answered a request from Gordon asking to be taken to an appointment with a probation officer. Jones was told to pull in at Crabbe Street, Lye, where the drug deal took place around 2.20pm on March 12, said Mr Beardwell.

Later that day, after police had been alerted, officers spotted the car in Broom Close, Halesowen. "It tried to drive away but was stopped when police smashed the windows of the vehicle," said Mr Beardwell

They found 31 wraps of heroin, 49 of crack cocaine and loose change on the back seat where Gordon had been sitting.

Gordon, from Yardley Crescent, Great Barr, admitted supplying heroin and crack cocaine with intent, intimidating a witness and possession of a knife.

Mr Gulum Ahmed, defending, said: "The gun gesture was a foolish and stupid act that had a profound effect."

Gordon received four years detention – including the activation of a suspended sentence – while Jones of Furnace Hill, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of crack and heroin and was given a 16 months jail sentence suspended for two years with £600 costs.

Judge Robin Onions recommended that Mrs Dickens should receive a High Sheriff Commendation. He said: "The lady showed commendable determination and not a little courage."

Traders celebrate 'hidden gem'

Eddie Woodall, Nadia Lammas and Linda Tennant at Halfpenny Green Vineyard

TRADERS are welcoming visitors to a 'hidden gem' in the countryside as a growing attraction celebrates new businesses coming on board.

A range of businesses are now based at Halfpenny Green Vineyard craft and retail centre, Bobbington, near Stourbridge, which has expanded.

Booming

From arts and crafts, woodwork, glass gifts and plants — business is booming at the centre at the vineyard which is fast becoming a popular attraction.

The Owl and Falconry centre is also part of the centre, off Tom Lane.

The final final retail unit at the vineyard complex was recently let. Business owner landscape gardener Eddie Woodall has sold plants and flowers, from the centre since opening his unit at Easter.

"The place is one of the hidden gems of the countryside and we just want more people to know about it," he said. "There is a good range of different businesses up here and something for everyone."

The vineyard also sells a range of its own wines, high quality food and has a popular cafe.

Lots to see and do in Wyre Forest during summer

FAMILIES will be able to enjoy a host of activities as a summer programme of events gets under way across Wyre Forest.

From arts and crafts to sports and music – there is something for everybody to enjoy.

Thousands are expected to visit Kidderminster Arts Festival next month held at difference venues in the town centre.

Live street theatre is planned across the month.

Events are taking place from August 9 to the 24 with a full list of exhibitions and shows available via the www.kidderminsterartsfestival.org.uk website. Wyre Forest District Council has also put together a range of summer activities to keep the kids entertained during the school holidays.

At the Blackstone picnic site, in Bewdley Road, children can board an off-road vehicles and ride into the wilderness for games. Sessions are from 1.30pm and 3pm and 3.30pm to 5pm, costing £5, on August 18.

This Saturday there are a range of challenges available at Habberley Valley Visitor Centre.

Visit www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/bookings for further information.

Doctor Who's monsters and music at the NIA

OUT of this world orchestral extravaganza The Doctor Who Symphonic Spectacular is coming to the Birmingham NIA next year

The live show, which was a sell-out on its world premiere in Australia, will have a limited run of 12 UK performances including one in the city on May 26. It features more than 100 performers and is conducted by Ben Foster, who conducts and orchestrates the musical scores for the TV series.

Music will be performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and members of the BBC National Chorus of Wales.

The show features a host of the Doctor's famous adversaries including the iconic Daleks and Cybermen, the spine-chilling Silence and many more fan favourites.

The monsters provide a dramatic contrast to the evocative music written by Murray Gold, who has composed music for the series over the last eight years. Fans will discover the identity of the guest presenter in early 2015.

Tickets for the NIA date, from £20 to £47.50, go on general sale at 9am tomorrow from www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.

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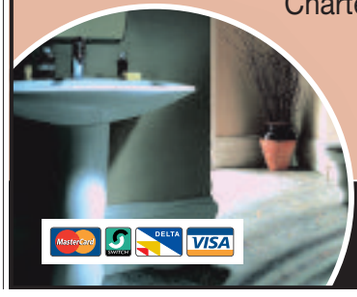

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Poppies star behind music for film epic

ANDREW TURTON talks to a former pop star turned Hollywood film composer from Pedmore

Pop Will Eat Itself during their glory days with Clint second from left

Russell Crowe as Noah in the Biblical epic now on DVD

HE is a Black Country lad done good but trips to Molineux and a pint of Bathams are few and far between nowadays for Clint Mansell.

Instead the former Pop Will Eat Itself frontman is in demand from Hollywood film directors to work on soundtracks for their latest big budget epic.

It was back in the late 1980s and early 1990s that he first found fame though.

Once known for sporting flowing long locks, his band helped put Stourbridge on the music map. They were part of a popular music scene alongside other bands like The Wonder Stuff and Ned's Atomic Dustbin.

But now Clint has swapped the UK to LA and has forged a new career as a sought after composer.

His long-standing partnership with director Darren Aronofsky saw the pair work on modern classics such as Requiem for a Dream, The Wrestler and Black Swan. The latter starred Natalie Portman, who won best actress at the Oscars for her role in the film which revolves around Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake. It also scooped Clint a nomination at the Grammy's in 2012 for best score soundtrack.

Some of his music from the film Requiem for a Dream is also used on the X factor. The piece called Lux Aeterna is what the judges walk out on stage to.

Their latest collaboration, the biblical epic Noah, featuring awarding winning actors Russell Crowe and Anthony Hopkins, has topped the US box office. Clint's score helps tell one of the world's best known stories as the movie has just hit the UK's stores on DVD and Blu-Ray.

You would think his life was all glamorous parties rubbing shoulders with Hollywood stars but the 51-year-old composer, who grew up in Pedmore, shuns the limelight to allow his work to speak for itself.

Fortunate

"I'm very fortunate in my life, I've never had any real jobs, I've always been a musician. Being able to write and record your own music with great musicians is a dream come true," he said.

"I don't really do any of the awards stuff. I'm already working on the next thing."

He did travel out to Iceland to visit the set on Noah but admitted he felt 'in the way' and left the cast to it while he enjoyed the trip.

"It did help me get me into the mindset of the film but I think it is as much about trying to immerse yourself in the subject matter and there is so much out there that you can find for yourself as inspiration," he said.

"I didn't really think of it in terms of a biblical story, instead it was more of an end of the world event so I just approached it as a post apocalyptic dystopia story and if you take it literally, God, or the creator as it is called in the film, is ending the world, which is a pretty scary thought.

"The great difference with this film was the pressure. Every film is going to be different. It's a learning curve all the time."

Clint's said: "I first heard David Bowie when I was about seven or eight and I was just blown away by that. That is what I wanted to do. Then there was Ramones, Sex Pistols and The Clash."

The former King Edward VI College student was a member of the group which eventually became known as Pop Will Eat Itself.

Known to fans as The Poppies, the band scored a string of top 40 singles and four top 40 albums and were part of the 'grebo' scene.

"We just stuck at it. We went on Top of the Pops, toured the world and basically spent our 20s having the best laugh and the best time. I wouldn't change that for the world," said Clint whose family, including his parents Marilyn and Donald, still live in the town.

He records many of the soundtracks in London which affords him time to travel back to the midlands for some home comforts.

"I love coming back to Stourbridge. The beer's the best. Can't beat a Bathams," he said.

When the Poppies disbanded in 1996, Clint moved out to America where he lived in New York and New Orleans and met Aronosky.

He was living in LA by 2001 when he started getting more film work but said: "It took me about three years to find my feet. But the thing that helped me settle was they tarted showing the Premier League over here. Then Wolves got promoted that year and that gave me a real taste of home in LA and it was really important to me."

Movie soundtrack composer Clint Mansell formerly of Pop Will Eat Itself

Concert

Clint admits he does not go to many gigs any more but he says he is listening to more music than ever before including the new incarnation of Pop Will Eat Itself, who are playing their first home town concert in almost 30 years tomorrow night (Friday)

The group now features one original member in drummer/vocalist Graham Crabb, is to play at the River Rooms

The original group, which released five albums, briefly reformed in 2005. The latest incarnation started in 2011 and released album New Noise Designed by a Sadist. New members included vocalist Mary Byker, formerly with Gaye Bykers On Acid, Apollo 440 and Pigface; guitarist Tim Muddiman, who has played with Gary Numan; drummer Jason Bowld, once with Killing Joke, and bass player Davey Bennett. Tickets are £17. The band then tour Australia and New Zealand. Meanwhile, Clint is planning some solo shows later this year in London and Manchester.

Strummer time concert at club

A UKULELE band will stage a show to help raise funds to maintain a church yard with memorials to fallen soldiers.

Volunteers have been busy in recent months clearing the graveyard at St Peter's Church, in Cradley. The work is nearly complete and the cemetery will be reopening with a ceremony at 11am on Monday.

Maintenance

The Black Country ukulele band plan to hold a concert on Saturday to help raise funds towards ongoing maintenance.

The show will take place at Cradley Sports and Social Club, in Colley Lane, Cradley, from 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 on the door with proceeds going to the project led by Cradley and District Ex-Service Association.

Drunken arsonist is jailed for ten years after terrorising area

A DRIFTER who launched a terrifying arson campaign in Wall Heath is starting a 10 year jail sentence.

Simon Glazzard, who was living in a tent, torched four cars and the outbuilding of a derelict pub in less than a fortnight causing over £30,000 damage and putting lives in jeopardy.

One of the vehicles was parked two feet from a house where a 70-year-old woman and her severely disabled husband were sleeping, Miss Madhu Rai, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Three of the other late night fires sparked by the 36-year-old could have killed or seriously injured people because they were close to homes. The first blaze swept the derelict Albion Inn at Wall Heath on August 29. The flames could have spread to a house and gas cannister if the wind had changed direction, said Miss Rai.

Glazzard had been drinking heavily before the incident and was arrested close to the scene. He was released on police bail pending further inquiries but then set light to four cars — a BMW, VW Golf, Corsa and Nova — parked in Wolverhampton Road, Beachcroft Road and Holbeach Croft, just days later on September 9.

Glazzard had been jailed for four years in 2002 after starting a fire that caused £310,000 damage to the Netto store in Dudley High Street.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said: "He is both a troubled and troubling man. Since the death of his father his ambition seems to have been to drink as much as possible. "

Glazzard was found guilty by a jury of arson while reckless as to whether life was endangered. He also admitted two similar offences and two further charges of arson and was sent to prison for 10 years with an extended five year licence on release.

'Sleep' author promises thriller

HIS debut novel took him from the medical profession to a best-selling author rubbing shoulders with Hollywood stars.

Now Stourbridge-born Steve Watson has announced his second book will be released in February.

The film adaptation of Before I Go To Sleep starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth will reach cinemas in September after the novel sold hundreds of thousands of copies across the globe. A new edition of the book will be published to tie-in with the movie.

The follow-up, Second Life, will be another tense thriller, the writer has promised. He said: "I think and hope that people who have enjoyed Before I Go to Sleep will like this one too."

Quilts show is sew colourful

Adrian Durkin, exhibitions officer, at The Art of Quilting exhibition at Dudley

THE art of quilting will be in the spotlight at a colourful exhibition at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

Hand-made quilts featuring a variety of intricate and eye catching designs will be on show at the museum in St James's Road, Dudley, until September 27.

It features the work of two quilting groups, Crystal Quilters from Stourbridge and Forest Quilters from Kidderminster. Designs range from a fairytale theme to an African-inspired quilt complete with prints of zebras, gorillas and tribal art. Another commemorates the American Civil War with fabrics which would have been used at the time. The exhibits show the range of patchwork and quilting techniques.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for environment and culture Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The quality and variety of work these talented women have produced is quite remarkable. Each piece shows off the skills and imagination of its creator and no two pieces are alike. This is a really inspiring and uplifting exhibition which I'm sure will appeal to all visitors, not just those with an interest in textiles, and I wouldn't be surprised if either group gains some new members eager to develop this beautiful and skilled pastime."

The two quilting groups meet regularly, and run 'sit and sew' open sessions where people can join in. They also have regular speakers and new members are always welcome, whether total beginners or old hands.

Crystal Quilters has around 30 members and meet at Amblecote Church Hall on the third and fourth Wednesday evening of each month. The museum is open 10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday, and admission is free.

Jobs are lost at autoparts business

AUTOPARTS business Unipart Automotive Limited has goine into administration closing branches in Brierley Hill, Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and Kidderminster, losing 22 local jobs.

Solihull-based Unipart operated a network of 180 branches and distribution hubs trading under the Unipart Automotive, Partco Autoparts, and Express Factors brands, employing a total of 1,813.

In total 1,244 people have lost their jobs with a further 361 have transferred to other companies and 208 staff retained to assist the administrators, who have sold part of the business to Andrew Page, one of the UK's largest distributors of car parts.

Unipart Automotivesupports over 700 independent, owner-operated garages through its Unipart Car Care Centre programme, in addition to 19 franchisees.These companies will continue to operate as normal.

The show will go on

RAIN or Shine Theatre Company are returning to the Severn Valley Country Park at Alveley, near Kinver, on Friday, August 8, with a swashbuckling performance of pirate adventure Treasure Island.

Director James Reynard, said: "It is an ideal choice for an outdoor family theatrical event." Visitors can arrive from 6.30pm and bring a picnic. Tickets will be available on the night priced £13 (concessions £11) and children £6. Not suitable for under 6s.

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'No' ruling on lowering voting age

West Mids Federation

SEVERAL members travelled from West Midlands to Cardiff for the National AGM in St David's Hall on June 18.

Laurence Parkes took the Roll Call with trustee Win Gair carrying the National banner. National chairman Margaret Key announced that eight new guilds had been formed during the last year.

The first topic was introduced by Dom Anderson who gave a credible argument for reducing the voting age to 16. Professor Andrew Russell voted against it. Following a debate from the floor a vote was taken and the motion was lost.

The main speaker was travel writer Matthew Collins, a one-time member of TV's 'The Travel Show. His talk was amusing and well received. A vote of thanks was given by Jenny Rideout.

The next topic concerned enforcing existing legislation for female genital mutilation (FGM). The 'for' vote was unanimous.

Matthew Hatch, a director of the Wales Carers Trust, gave a talk about the charity that exists to support unpaid carers.

Following a break for lunch, Margaret Key presented awards to the winners of the crown green bowls and the scrabble competitions. The national quiz was won by Chesterfield. Billericay won the membership shield.

The officer award was won by Ann Dunlop and Townswoman of the year was Shirley Alton of South Staffs.

Magistrate speaker does herself justice

Wednesbury TG

THE guild had a very successful day with their stalls at Wednesbury Carnival. It was wonderful to see so many people having a good time.

Local charities, to be decided, will benefit. Thanks to the Rotary Club for ensuring the smooth running of the event and to Wesley Centre staff for their assistance.

Semi-retired solicitor David M Winwood was a very interesting and informative speaker, specialising in advice on will writing and power of attorney services. He made an intricate topic very understandable.

A trip to Chester was a great success. Thanks to Joyce Bailey for organising a successful outing.

Marry Arrowsmith was delighted to receive a beautiful bouquet on the occasion of a special wedding anniversary.

The most recent speaker was Dr Patricia Martin, PhD, JP, by profession a toxicologist, but on this occasion speaking as magistrate. The talk was both very serious and humorous, with a little audience participation required.

Guild comes first in Federation quiz

Pelsall E TG

AT the June 19 meeting thanks and praise were expressed to Jennie Ferrington and Sylvia Brown for the flowers and 'little boxes' placed on the tables at the birthday dinner on the May 15 at the County Hotel, Walsall.

It was an excellent meal in an ideal room and arrangements have been made to hold the Christmas dinner at the same location.

Members were advised that Pelsall Guild had won the Federation quiz evening held on June 9.

A reminder was given regarding the craft fair on November 29 at Aldridge Community Centre.

June's speaker was Penny Wheat who spoke of her interest, aroused originally by a library book, in prisoners on Death Row in the USA. She wrote to prisoners for many years, and later visited those on 'Death Row' and 'lifers'. It was a most interesting and poignant talk.

The postcard competition was won by Carol Manlove and the raffle by Margaret Tolley.

The July 17 speaker was Christine Gregory who gave a very interesting talk on Remembrance Day in other countries, illustrated by photographs.

The competition for a war souvenir was won by Sandra Pagett with an original Princess Mary gift box issued to all servicemen at the front at Christmas 1914. Sylvia Brown was the raffle winner.

The meeting on August 21 is a social evening with baked potatoes.

Ed sure gave a good talk

Grange 'E' TG

THE monthly meeting was held at Grange Court on July 1. A warm welcome was given to two visitors.

A strawberry cream tea for all members will be held on August 5 with an invitation also to residents of Grange Court.

Marlene O'Hanlon asked members if they were able to knit small teddies, for which she would provide the instructions, to be sent to hospitals to be given to children.

Chris Holton reported that the collection for the food bank had been overwhelming. The copper coin collection was also going well.

Speaker Ed Shore gave a talk complete with slides entitled 'Travelling through India towing a caravan'.

His talk was very amusing, interesting and enjoyable.

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What? There's something not quite right with this

WHEN a Wolves fan bought his beloved team's new shirt, he got less than he bargained for.

Delivery driver Paul Bona bought the club's brand new away shirt only to discover it was missing the name of its sponsor.

Mr Bona, from Primrose Avenue, Bushbury, unwrapped the £42 top when he arrived home to find the 'What House' emblem was absent from its front.

The 50-year-old, who said he had been waiting for Wolves to release a white away kit for some years, said: "I put a picture straight up on Facebook and people were having a laughing at it. People were saying it looked like a Leeds United or Derby County shirt."

What the new shirt looked like

How Wolves shirt should have looked

Unhappy with shirt – delivery driver Paul Bona (left) with son Paul

Change

While fans pay big money to wear the shirt of their heroes the father-of-three said he almost had a change of heart.

"I didn't know whether to take it back because I suppose it would have been a collector's item," he said.

"I decided not to in the end and Wolves were happy to change it. I have no idea how it was missed. What happened to quality control?"

Online property search firm What House signed a £1 million deal with Wanderers last year to have their logo on the front of the club's kit.

Wolves spokesman Matt Grayson said: "We're sorry for any inconvenience and we've exchanged the shirt for a new one.

"Through our megastores, we distribute thousands of clothing items every year and, like any retail outlet, it's inevitable there will be isolated issues on occasions.

"When these matters arise we always move quickly to put things right."

It isn't the first time Wolves and their suppliers Puma have been caught in a wardrobe malfunction.

In March, Wanderers fan Richard Gough, originally from Cannock but now living in Cheshire, received a home shirt with the badge sewn upside down.

He took to social network site Twitter to vent his frustration but the club sent a response apologising for the mistake on a letter written upside down.

The reply from Wolves went viral with thousands of retweets and responses.

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Avaricious dirty, Roma? No way

LEON BURAKOWSKI finds all the roads still lead to Rome in his guide to the Eternal City

The Colosseum, a magnificent relic of ancient Rome

ROME, the Eternal City, has in recent years been better known as the expensive city, especially after a Black Country family had an expensive experience at an avaricious ice cream parlour.

However, if you're just a little savvy, then there is not reason why you shouldn't let your road lead to Rome for a memorable and not too pricey visit. Here are some handy tips if you are planning a tript to the great imperial city:

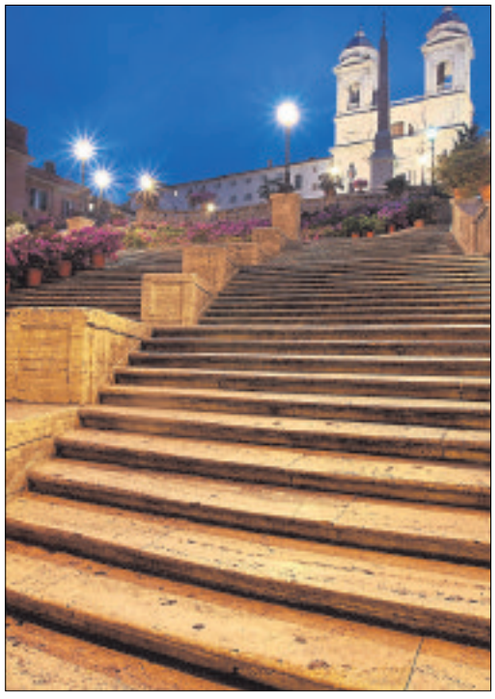
No visit to Rome would be complete without a visit to The Colosseum, perhaps Rome's most awe-inspiring ancient monument. However, the queues to get inside the 2,000 years old amphitheatre can be huge. A tickets gets you into three attractions — The Palantine Hill and Forum too — so get your three-in-one ticket at the Palantine Hill entrance where the queues are much smaller and, sometimes, there are no queues at all.

Dome

Don't miss The Pantheon. Originally a temple, now a national shrine containing the tombs of Italian monarchs and heroes, it is a huge concrete dome that even by today's standards is a remarkable feat of architecture. Best of all, it's free admission. The shaft of light through the hole at its summit can be impressive.

The Vatican, a city state within Rome and the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, has one of the greatest collection of art treasures in the world and includes the Sistine Chapel festooned with the sublime Old Testament frescoes by Michelangelo. Don't just turn up on the day at the Vatican Museums, the lines are enormous. Buy your ticket online before you even leave the UK and you will be able to jump the queues. Wear comfortable shoes, the museums and magnificent St Peter's, built on the site of St Peter's Tomb, will take at least six hours to fully explore. However, the cafes in the Vatican are reasonably priced, unlike those in the streets leading up to it.

The Capitoline Museum is a must-see if you love art and/or history with its extensive collection of sculptures including most of the Roman Emperors. Highlights include the monumental head of first Christian emperor Constantine and an colossal statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius on horseback which sums up the pomp and power of the empire. Check the concessions available and don't go on a Monday, it's closed. The museum restaurant makes some of the best pizza in Rome.



The Spanish Steps are a romantic hotspot and a top photo opp

Not for the squeamish, the crypt at Santa Maria Della Concezione features the remains of more than 4,000 Capuchin monks, from cloaked skeletons to artfully arranged patterns of human bones. It is both macabre and poignant.

Fountain

Photo opportunity number one is the baroque Trevi Fountain which fills a small square with tourists eager to throw in the coins that guarantee their return to Rome. Nearby, the Spanish Steps with its balustrades and terraces is photo opportunity number two but you will have to put up with flower sellers urging you to pose with a rose at this romantic hotspot.

You can grab a panini from one of the many small shops. For a sit-down meal, head to the historic Jewish ghetto for a delicious blend of Jewish and Italian cuisine at fair prices or head over the River Tiber to Trastevere district where the sheer number of restaurants keeps prices keen.

The official Roma Pass includes admission to two museums plus various concessions for 36 Euros.

The baroque splendour of the Trevi Fountain

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Cobra chief is given key university role

THE India-born founder of Cobra Beer has been appointed as Chancellor of the University of Birmingham.

Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea was installed as the university's seventh chancellor at an official ceremony recently. He follows a long line of distinguished chancellors who include the Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain, the Right Honorable Anthony Eden, Earl of Avon, and Sir Dominic Cadbury, who stepped down last December after 11 years in the role. The chancellor acts as a university ceremonial figurehead.

Lord Bilimoria said: "The University of Birmingham is a wonderful institution with such an illustrious history dating back to its foundation by Joseph Chamberlain in 1900. It is also the university where my mother, my uncle and my maternal grandfather studied.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to take on such a prominent role at the university that has not only been named The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013–14, but is genuinely going from strength to strength."

Towie stars Elliott Wright and Chloe Sims with salon owners Claire Jones and Stephen Tudor

Towie stars are the special guests for a beautiful birthday

ESSEX glamour came to the Black Country when a beauty salon celebrated its first birthday.

The Only Way Is Essex couple Chloe Sims and Elliot Wright were the special guests at Tranquillite Studio in Wordsley.

Owners Stephen Turner, 33, and Claire Jones 24, celebrated the 12 month success of their beauty business by hosting a champagne reception and a meet and greet with the reality TV stars. The salon in Sandringham Place and the engaged couple say the business has grown in popularity and success.

Miss Jones from Kingswinford said: "We try and offer something different. A lot of our customers appreciate how friendly and down to earth we are."

Joint owner Mr Turner organised the event to raise money for patients who are suffering from a rare form of cancer.

He said: "The anniversary party was a good way to get a charity close to my heart publicised and to have a star come and visit helps represent what we are about. We are all about being glam and that is what TOWIE represents."

The salon has raised more than £3,000 for charity and the couple were inspired to raise money to fight Pseudomyxoma peritonei, after Stephen's dad died from the disease.

After meeting with the salon owners and staff, the reality stars posed for pictures and customers were entertained by show girls.

TOWIE star Gemma Collins had to cancel her appearance at the last minute due to filming commitments.

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GOLDbury celebrates Jodie gold at Games

GOLDEN girl Jodie Stimpson will be given a civic reception in honour of her Commonwealth success — as Oldbury celebrates the gold rush.

Her home town was cheekily nicknamed GOLDbury for the day thanks to a campaign after the 25-year-old triathlete took the first gold of the Commonwealth Games.

By Andrew Turton

Members of her former team, Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club, have also led the celebrations as they were glued to their television screens to watch Thursday's final.

Sandwell Council have announced plans to host a civic ceremony on Jodie's return from Glasgow in celebration of her sporting triumphs.

Signs

Special 'Goldbury' signs marking Jodie's momentous success are also planned for the town, Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, has revealed.

He said: "We are so proud of Jodie and want to do our bit to make sure her fantastic achievement is recognised.

"We want to hold a Civic Reception for Jodie on her return from The Games and are looking at having special signs put up around Oldbury — 'or Goldbury' — paying tribute to our brilliant gold medallist."

Jodie joined Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club at a young age, training at Langley Swimming Centre.

As a young elite athlete, she was part of Sandwell's Triple S Gifted and Talented Programme.

She also carried the Olympic Torch for London 2012.

Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club, which holds meetings in Sandwell Valley, is hosting the Jodie Stimpson Aquathon on Sunday.

She will be guest of honour at the event which starts at 9am at Swan Pool, off Forge Lane, West Bromwich.

Organiser Mark Deakin said: "She is an inspiration to the club having started with us at an early age and we are delighted for her successs," he said.

Travel firm Network West Midlands re-titled a bus with GOLDbury to celebrate.

National Express spokesman Jack Kelly said: "Everyone at National Express West Midlands was delighted when we saw Jodie take the first medal of the Commonwealth Games.

"It really does the area proud."

See sport — pages 39 & 40

County Museum is hosting family fun

WORCESTERSHIRE County Museum at Hartlebury Castle is rolling out an inexpensive calendar of fun for the whole family this summer holiday – ideal for those looking to entertain their kids and preserve their pennies.

Three different children's craft activities will take place every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in August, from 10.30am-4pm.

The craft activities explore periods of history such as Romans and Egyptians as well as exciting themes including Dinosaurs, the Seaside and Pirates.

It costs just £1 per child for a whole days worth of activities after the normal admission fee (which is £13 for a family ticket) so it is great value for money.

On each Tuesday and Wednesday in August there will also be a chance to join in the have-a-go archery in the Castle's Carriage Circle (small additional cost).

See www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

Actors 'still' on target for Baggies celebration

Leader of Sandwell Council, Councillor Darren Cooper, and WBA legend Ally Robertson, look at the living statue

PLANS to immortalise three West Bromwich Albion legends have been brought to life.

A statue depicting pioneering black players, also known as 'The Three Degrees' – Laurie Cunningham, Brendon Batson and Cyrille Regis – is planned for West Bromwich town centre next year.

The Celebration, which shows the players celebrating a goal, has now been brought to life by actors recreating the pose as part of an exhibition for this year's Sandwell Arts Festival. The actors, all members of the Man Made Youth Company, appeared on the plinth at New Square Shopping Centre in bronze to recreate the iconic pose.

Ex-Albion star Ally Robertson who played with Brendon, Cyrille and Laurie, was on hand to see the display along with local businessman Jim Cadman who is raising money for the statue.

They were joined by Councillor Darren Cooper, Leader of Sandwell Council, who said the exhibition was a great way of promoting both the statue and the arts festival. "This is a great way to bring this important project to life and give people a taste of what it will be like to have a fantastic sculpture in the town next year," he said.

The actors will be back in West Bromwich town centre on Saturday to bring The Celebration statue to life at 2pm.

A tribute dinner marking the life of Laurie Cunningham is being held at the International Conference Centre in Birmingham on Monday November 10.

For more information contact Jim Cadman on 07971 624627 or email jwc@corstone.co.uk

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Oh Boy, George back in the club

BOY George will be reviving Karma Chameleon when he gets back together with his 1980s chart-toppers Culture Club to headline Birmingham's NIA with a festive gig alongside fellow 80s star Alison Moyet.

Culture Club were one of the biggest bands of their era, selling in excess of 100 million singles and over 50 million albums.

The original line-up has reformed and will play the NIA on December 12 – the first time they've played live together in over 15 years.

Former Yazoo singer Moyet has been solo since 1984's Alf and in recent years has successfully relaunched her career, winning acclaim for her latest album The Minutes.

All that jazz ahead at Arena theatre

A WOLVERHAMPTON theatre will be hosting its second jazz season this autumn.

The season begins at the Arena in Wulfruna Street on October 11, with June Tabor, who is more famous as a folk singer, joining forces with the Quercus trio and Iain Ballamy for a concert.

Then on November 15 the theatre will be hosting Anglo-Scandinavian trio Phronesis, who will be performing from their highly rated album Life to Everything.

Indo-jazz clarinettist Arun Ghosh comes to the Arena with his six-piece band on December 4 to perform his South Asian Suite.

Very tasty selection of pop star names at the V Festival

THE Midlands' biggest music festival, V, is scheduled for 16 and 17 August at Weston Park, on the Staffordshire and Shropshire border.

It will feature a galaxy of star names across four stages, as well as big names in comedy, such as Alan Carr, Adam Hills, Paul Chowdhry and Rob Beckett.

The Saturday night line-up at Weston Park will feature Main Stage acts The Killers from Las Vegas, Paolo Nutini who is back in the big time with his hit album Caustic Love, and controversial songstress Lily Allen.

Completing the line up on the Main Stage will be Rudimental, Train, Newton Faulkner, M People and 80s disco sensations Chic featuring Nile Rogers.

The MTV Stage will include Axwell A Ingrosso, Tinie Tempah, Jason Derulo, Rizzle Kicks, Katy B, Childish Gambino, Aloe Blacc and Sheppard.

One of that venue's biggest crowds is bound to be for new UK soul star Sam Smith whilst Midlands rock fans of a certain vintage will be flocking to see Miles Hunt lead a revived The Wonder Stuff.

Justin Timberlake will headline V on Sunday

Futures

The Arena Stage will include a DJ set from Chase and Status as well as performances from Sub Focus, Rita Ora, Ceelo Green, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, Nina Nesbitt, Ella Eyre, Jess Blynne and Neon Jungle.

Meanwhile, the Futures Stage will welcome the best of new talents, as well as returning favourites, including Embrace, Howling Bells, Vance Joy, The Magic Numbers, Bewdley's Becky Hill, Chloe Howl and James Bay.

The festival on the Sunday will feature US superstar headliner Justin Timberlake being joined by Ed Sheeran, Example, Bastille, Kaiser Chiefs, Tom Odell, Kodaline and punk veterans The Stranglers.

The MTV Stage will be headlined by the mighty Elbow and could eclipse the other stages with a line-up that includes festival veterans the Manic Street Preachers, a Blondie re-energised by success at Glastonbury, Miles Kane, The Wailers, John Newman, Pixie Lott, rising star George Ezra, Starsailor and The Rifles.

The Arena Stage line-up comprises Alesso, Above and Beyond, the highly-rated Janelle Monae, 80s veterans The Human League, ballroom dancing pop star Sophie Ellis-Bextor, James Arthur, Foxes, Kiesza, All Saints and Fuse ODG.

Sunday's Futures Stage line-up will feature Alex Clare, Birdy, Hoodie Allen, The Strypes, Icona Pop, Josh Record, Neon Trees, To Kill A King and Dan Croll.

Day tickets ared £89 with £8.90 booking fee, weekend tickets with no camping start at £165 (plus £10.15), with camping £189 (plus £10.95). See www.vfestival.com

A quality line-up at Glee Club

A BIRMINGHAM venue that brings the best singer/songwriters to the region has unveiled its autumn programme.

The Glee Club, in The Arcadian Centre in Chinatown, will feature the best of acoustic and electric roots music.

The programme starts on September 15 with a h show from Welsh wonder and former Super Furry Animals frontman Gruff Rhys, who will play songs from his new American Interior album. He will be followed on September 17 by Ani DiFranco, who is making a welcome return to the venue following a majestic show in 2011.

Other highlights include a show on September 23 by Irish singer/songwriter Sharon Corr, touring her second solo album The Same Sun, Mary Gauthier on October 1, Nerina Pallot on October 29 and founding Byrds member Roger McGuinn on November 2.

Glee date — Sharon Corr Photograph by Barry McCall

No substitute for rock legends

ROCK legends The Who celebrate 50 years at Birmingham's NIA on December 7 and do not plan to tour again after 2015.

The band, featuring surviving original members singer Roger Daltrey and guitarist Pete Townsend,will return to the city for a celebration of a career during which they have sold more than 100 million albums.

Formed during the London Mod boom of 1964 with a lineup including bassist John Entwistle and drummer Keith Moon, they achieved success with hits like My Generation, I Can't Explain and Substitute.

Their albums Tommy, Live At Leeds and 1973's Quadrophenia elevated the band to iconic status.

Scottish comedy invasion at MAC

COMEDIAN Danny Bhoy will be appearing in Birmingham as part of his UK tour. The Scottish-Indian funnyman,will be coming to Edgbaston on September 26 — just over a week after the Scottish vote on independence. The comic will bring his Please Untick This Box tour to Midland Arts Centre in Cannon Hill Park.

Other comics coming to the MAC include fellow Scots Hardeep Singh Kohli with Hardeep Is Your Love on September 19 and Susan Caldman with her Lady Like show on October 5.

Edinburgh Fringe favourite Mark Watson performs on October 4.

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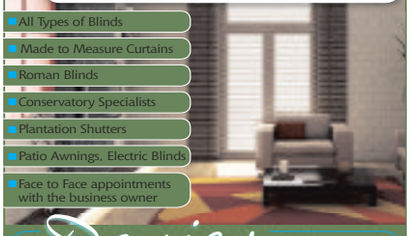
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CHOICE

Melvyn Bragg

Melvyn Bragg's Radical Lives
(BBC2, 9pm)
In the first of a new two-parter, Melvyn Bragg examines the lives, work and legacy of two men whose ideas have had enormous consequences in their own era and through the centuries. The first is John Ball, the great preacher of the 14th century. Ball's words and beliefs created groundbreaking revolutionary action. For many years he preached his in the south east of England, and was oppressed by the Church authorities he hated. By 1381 he joined forces with Wat Tyler in Kent and led a rebellion, dubbed the Peasants' Revolt. In this film, Bragg examines how they joined forces with many of London's disgruntled city dwellers; met with the king and made their demands.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.30** Commonwealth Games. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Commonwealth Games. Further live coverage on the penultimate day of the Games. **3.00** Commonwealth Games. Continued coverage from Glasgow. **5.20** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.40** Commonwealth Games. Further coverage on day 10 of the Games.

7.00 Commonwealth Games. Hazel Irvine and Gary Lineker introduce live coverage of the concluding athletics session of the Games, staged at Hampden Park in Glasgow. Nine finals will take place this evening, and there is no doubt that Usain Bolt will be the star attraction, as he competes for Jamaica in the men's 4x100m relay. Somewhat surprisingly, Bolt has never won a Commonwealth Games medal, but he will expect to put that right with his world record-holding team and add gold to his outstanding collection, which includes six Olympic and eight world championship triumphs. The schedule also features the finals of the men's 4x400m relay, 1500m, triple jump and javelin, and the women's 4x100m relay, 4x400m relay, 5,000m and pole vault. Plus, updates from the final of the men's 10m platform discipline at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh, which is expected to feature Tom Daley.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin reveals the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.30 Tonight at the Games. Mark Chapman and Clare Balding present a round-up of the 10th and penultimate day's action at the Commonwealth Games, which featured the concluding athletics and diving.

11.40 Commonwealth Games Sportsday. Katherine Downes presents a round-up of the 10th day's events in Glasgow, focusing on the medal winners as the 20th staging of the Games continued; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: The Rookie. (2002) Fact-based drama about a former baseball player who returns to the big time while coaching a high-school team. Starring Dennis Quaid and Jay Hernandez.

2.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: A Date with the Falcon. (1942) **7.00 Film:** The Falcon Strikes Back. (1943) **8.05** The Living Planet. (R) **9.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **9.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.00** Robert Redford: Talking Pictures. **1.40 Film:** The Way We Were. (1973) **3.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.20** Beavers Behaving Badly – Natural World. (R) **5.20** Commonwealth Games. **5.40** Flog It!

6.10 Great War Diaries. New series. Documentary using dramatic reconstructions to tell the story of the First World War based on the letters and journals of those who lived through the conflict.

7.10 Pembrokeshire: Coastal Lives. Ghost hunters try to find out if Angle's Chapel Bay Fort contains more than just a collection of weapons and Nat James marries her fiance at St Davids Cathedral. Last in the series.

7.40 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring has too much to drink during a weekend course with Captain Square, but still manages to save Jonesy's life. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

8.15 Proms Extra 2014. Featuring reviews of the Zurich Chamber Orchestra's performance of Bach's St John Passion and the Proms debut of the China Philharmonic Orchestra. Presented by Katie Derham.

9.00 Melvyn Bragg's Radical Lives. Part one of two. The broadcaster examines the lives of two revolutionary thinkers, beginning with 14th-century priest John Ball, who was instrumental in the Peasants' Revolt.

10.00 Commonwealth Games. Further coverage on day 10 of the Games, which are being staged in Glasgow, with events taking place across the city.

10.30 QI XL. Extended edition. Sue Perkins, Reginald D Hunter and Jimmy Carr join Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of questions of the topic of kitsch.

11.15 Film: Apocalypto. (2006) A Mayan tribesman captured to be used as a human sacrifice escapes into the jungle in a bid to save his family. Historical adventure, starring Rudy Youngblood.

1.20 Film: The Odd Angry Shot. (1979) **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **12.30** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **1.30** Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) **2.25** Catchphrase. (R) **3.10 Film:** The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery. (1966) Comedy, starring Frankie Howerd. **5.00 Film:** Valiant. (2005) Computer-animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 You've Been Framed! Surreal comedy from the mind of Harry Hill. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Jim Moir – better known as Vic Reeves, one half of comedy double act Reeves and Mortimer – Dallas star Charlene Tilton (who played Lucy Ewing) and actress-singer Martine McCutcheon take turns on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf – and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard.

8.30 All Star Family Fortunes. Vernon Kay hosts the game show in which well-known faces team up with their relatives to win a cash prize for charity. (R)

9.30 Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith. (2005) Troubled Anakin Skywalker finds himself seduced by the dark side of the Force and is tempted into betraying his fellow Jedi Knights as conflict erupts across countless planets and the forces of evil prepare to seize control of the galaxy. The final instalment of the sci-fi prequel trilogy, with Hayden Christensen. Continues after the News.

11.05 ITV News; Weather.

11.25 Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith. (2005) Concluded.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Grid. **7.05** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Speed with Guy Martin. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of the fifth day of the Glorious Goodwood festival. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Alternative therapist Gill Bright hosts the final dinner party in Swindon and has plans for an Edwardian-themed evening with sophisticated food and circle dancing. (R)

6.45 Channel 4 News.

7.05 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke continues the search to find Britain's best shed, focusing on the Summerhouse/Cabin and Normal categories. He and his fellow judges visit a Gothic grotto decorated with 50,000 seashells, a replica 18th-century US frontier cabin, a scaled-down Elizabethan lodge, a disco shed, a 1970s amusement arcade – complete with a 12ft-high Ferris wheel – a 1950s American diner and a museum dedicated to TV comedy Dad's Army. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of architectural designer Lincoln Miles and his wife, artist Lisa Traxler, who want to create their own home on the Isle of Wight. They have bought a property on a prime piece of land and set out to convert it into a creative structure that harmonises with the unspoilt woodland setting. (R)

9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie. (2011) Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite work out as planned. Comedy based on the TV series, with Joe Thomas.

11.05 Film: Scary Movie. (2000) Spoof horror, starring Anna Faris and Shannon Elizabeth.

12.50 The Last Leg. (R) **1.30** Utopia. (R) **2.25 Film:** Mother. (2009) **4.30** Hollyoaks.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Access. **10.05** Emergency Bikers. (R) **11.00** Emergency Bikers. (R) **12.00** Emergency Bikers. (R) **1.00 Film:** Rocky III. (1982) Boxing drama, starring Sylvester Stallone. **2.55 Film:** Every Which Way But Loose. (1978) Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. **5.10 Film:** Where Eagles Dare. (1969) Second World War adventure, with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Blinging Up Baby. Documentary examining the growing trend for parents to kit out their toddlers in glamorous outfits, from crystal-covered dummies and frills to hairpieces, make-up and spray tans. In Essex, Sophie-May Dickson has dressed her two daughters like Barbie dolls since they were born, and talks about the criticism it has attracted both online and in the street. Birkenhead shop owner Marie Fullerton has been making bespoke children's clothing for 25 years, and reveals a recent upsurge in trade with people bringing in potties, prams and bathtubs to be "blinged up". Jayne Ashbourne narrates. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Highlights of another 24 hours in the Big Brother house, including coverage of the latest eviction as seen from the point of view of the contestants, who share their diary-room thoughts on their recently departed friend – or enemy. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Autopsy: The Last Hours of Karen Carpenter. Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the singer in February 1983, uncovering stories of bulimia, heart problems, sedatives, massive weight loss and force-feeding. (R)

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Rylan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. Cathy Hyde helps police break up a suspected puppy-trafficking ring. (R) **4.00** Great Scientists. A profile of Albert Einstein. Last in the series. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
10.00 Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** American Dad! **2.00** People Just Do Nothing **2.30** Him & Her: The Wedding **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Human Planet **8.00** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.35** Dolly Parton @ Glastonbury 2014 **11.45** Dolly Parton: Platinum Blonde **12.45** Queens of Country **1.45** Human Planet **2.45** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.45 Take Me Out **12.40** Dinner Date: Australia **1.35** The Only Way Is Essex **3.05 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **5.00** Totally You've Been Framed! **6.00** You've Been Framed! Funniest 100 **7.00 Film:** About a Boy (2002) **9.00 Film:** Friends with Kids (2011) **11.15 Film:** Saw II (2005) **1.05** The Magaluf Weekender **2.00** Crazy Beaches **2.20** Life's Funniest Moments **2.45** The Vamps: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.40 Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor **2.55** A Touch of Frost **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Bomb Girls **12.00** A Touch of Frost **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.50 Storage Wars Unlocked **12.50** Storage Wars **2.45 Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **4.50** Hornblower **9.00 Film:** Goldfinger (1964) **11.20 Film:** Death Wish V: The Face of Death (1994) **1.15** Gareth Thomas: Sports Life Stories **2.15** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **4.30** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 2 Broke Girls **12.30** How I Met Your Mother **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** Melissa & Joey **5.30** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The 100 **9.00 Film:** Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) **11.45** The Big Bang Theory **12.45** Virtually Famous **1.35** How I Met Your Mother **3.15** Rules of Engagement **4.00** Being Erica **4.45** Desperate Housewives

Film4
11.00 Fantastic Voyage (1966) **1.00** Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **3.20** Charlotte's Web (2006) **5.10** City of Ember (2008) **7.00** Mad Money (2008) **9.00** Limitless (2011) **11.05** Your Highness (2011) **1.10** The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) **3.15** Close

CHOICE

Gary Lineker

Commonwealth Games: Closing Ceremony (BBC1, 9pm)
Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present live coverage from Hampden Park in Glasgow, as the 20th Commonwealth Games are officially brought to a close after 11 days of competition. The ceremony promises to celebrate Scotland's way of life and gives the athletes the chance to unwind after a hectic schedule, with the baton handed over to Gold Coast City, host of the 2018 Games. The Games have been the largest multi-sport event ever held in Scotland, featuring 17 sports and competitors from 71 nations, and they will all have a chance to enjoy their moment in the spotlight this evening. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.45** Commonwealth Games. **11.45** BBC News; Weather. **11.55** Commonwealth Games. **5.35** Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth.

6.35 BBC News; Regional News.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker joins foragers scouring the coast of Cornwall for free food, trying his hand at freediving to get hold of spider crab. Anita Rani joins the team, helping to blast 26,000 tons of rock in a Cornish china clay quarry said to be the biggest in the world, and Helen Skelton sees a tribute to the Heligan gardeners who fought in France during the First World War. Tom Heap investigates Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's plans to bring back garden cities, asking whether it could have a detrimental effect on the countryside, and Adam Henson is excited to receive the keys to a new combine harvester. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Commonwealth Games. A look back at the Glasgow Games, which took place over 11 days and were the 20th staging of the event.

9.00 Commonwealth Games: Closing Ceremony. Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present live coverage from Hampden Park in Glasgow, as the 20th Commonwealth Games are officially brought to a close after 11 days of competition. The ceremony promises to celebrate Scotland's way of life and gives the athletes the chance to unwind after a hectic schedule, with the baton handed over to Gold Coast City, host of the 2018 Games. The Games have been the largest multi-sport event ever held in Scotland, featuring 17 sports and competitors from 71 nations, and they will all have a chance to enjoy their moment in the spotlight this evening. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

11.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

11.25 Kevin Bridges Live at the Commonwealth. The comic hosts an evening of comedy from Glasgow's Theatre Royal, with Canada's Katherine Ryan, South Africa's Trevor Noah, England's Simon Evans and Danny Bhoy from Scotland. (R)

12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: Sinbad the Sailor. (1947) **8.20** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **9.20** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.50** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Rick Stein's India. (R) **12.50 Film:** The Philadelphia Story. (1940) Romantic comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **2.40 Film:** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Escape to the Country. (R)

6.00 Flog It! Charlie Ross and Mark Stacey head for Monmouth, where they discover a small Austrian bronze and an art-deco bracelet. Meanwhile, Paul Martin examines the work of fashion designer Laura Ashley, and visits the Forest of Dean to meet a local man creating works of art with a chainsaw. (R)

7.00 Tropic of Capricorn. Simon Reeve uncovers extraordinary stories and experiences the diverse collection of cultures located in the southern tropics. The first leg of his journey sees the globe-trotting presenter cross the sweeping vistas of Namibia and Botswana, where he witnesses the vestiges of German colonisation in Swakopmund and searches for the Bushmen of the Kalahari desert. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. Two university friends pitch home-brew cider kits, a loose leaf tea company serves up a refreshing treat and a former economics student hopes to impress with his nutty preserve.

9.00 The Thirteenth Tale. Biographer Margaret Lea (Olivia Colman) is summoned to the home of reclusive and terminally ill novelist Vida Winter (Vanessa Redgrave) to document the author's life. Vida reveals the secrets of her dark and unsettling childhood at ancestral home Angelfield, forcing Margaret to face up to the tragedy she herself suffered as a young girl. Psychological mystery, with Robert Pugh. (R)

10.30 Film: Winter's Bone. (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose bail-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, with Jennifer Lawrence.

12.05 Sign Zone: The Battle for Stonehenge: A Culture Show Special. (R) **1.05** Holby City. (R) **2.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Chowder. (R) **8.10** Chowder. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** River Monsters. (R) **12.05** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.05** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.10 Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case. (1977) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.50** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.50** Tipping Point. (R)

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000. (R)

8.00 Foyle's War. The detective is drawn into the strange murder of eminent art historian Professor Van Haren, who was really a former high-ranking Nazi hired by MI5 due to his expert knowledge of Soviet intelligence. Meanwhile, as Sam's husband Adam embarks on a busy career as an MP, she worries whether she will be able to share some big news with him. Crime drama set in the 1940s, starring Michael Kitchen and Honeysuckle Weeks, with Tamzin Outhwaite and Rupert Vansittart. Last in the series. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Brothers in Arms: The Pals Army of World War One. Drawing on archive interviews, this documentary tells the story of the young British men who signed up for the Army with their friends and fought together in the First World War.

11.15 Premiership Rugby 7s Series. Gethin Jones presents highlights from the opening group stage, as 16 clubs aimed to progress to Friday's finals night at the Stoop.

12.15 The Store. Home shopping. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **4.15** Britain's Best Bakery. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Ironman UK Bolton. **7.05** British F3. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.35** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets. (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Briana Evigan. **5.35** Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Tom's Fantastic Floating Home. Tom Lawton continues his ambitious project to transform a derelict boat into a home filled with practical inventions for everyday life, focusing his fertile imagination on the way people cook and eat in this second edition. Taking inspiration from fellow inventors and feats of engineering, he designs some space-saving pop-up furniture, an indoor-outdoor barbecue to combat the variable British weather and an aquabike that can be used on both land and water. But will he manage to stay afloat?

8.00 The Mill. As the Chartist rally at Kersal Moor approaches, Daniel does his best to inspire the workers despite a lacklustre response. Esther deals with Patience and her escalating abuse of young girls in the apprentice house, while Miriam grows closer to Peter when she offers to teach him to read – causing a stir in the pub. Susannah becomes increasingly bored and frustrated with domestic life.

9.00 Child Genius. The stakes are high in the penultimate stage of the competition as the 10 remaining contestants vie for six places in the final. They face two challenging rounds: spelling, featuring some of the most difficult words in the English language, and general knowledge, testing them on a vast range of topics, from geography to astronomy.

10.00 Film: The Women. (2008) Comedy drama remake, starring Meg Ryan and Annette Bening.

12.20 Film: Somewhere. (2010) **2.00** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.55** The Hoarder Next Door. (R) **3.50** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Mio Mao. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. (R) **10.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00 Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach. (1988) Comedy sequel, starring Bubba Smith. **3.45 Film:** Are We There Yet? (2005) Family comedy, starring Ice Cube. **5.35 Film:** Hercules. (1997)

7.15 5 News Weekend.

7.20 Film: Little Nicky. (2000) The Devil decides to put off retirement for a little longer, but his two oldest sons are left fuming – and decide to get revenge by creating Hell on Earth. The job of saving the world falls to their good-natured younger brother, who travels to New York to put things right. Comedy, starring Adam Sandler, Patricia Arquette, Harvey Keitel, Rhys Ifans, Reese Witherspoon and Rodney Dangerfield. Edited to reduce sexual content, language, violence and flashing images.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights as the remaining housemates enter their final fortnight, revealing whether they have got over the tension and paranoia of the earlier weeks.

10.00 Film: The Losers. (2010) Elite soldiers are betrayed and left for dead by their CIA employers, but return to seek revenge. Action adventure, starring Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Chris Evans.

11.50 Car Thieves & Thugs: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV and technological advances are helping to tackle criminals exhibiting a complete disregard for the safety of others while at the wheel of a vehicle. (R)

12.50 SuperCasino. **3.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.05 Film:** Meet the Fockers (2004) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** People Just Do Nothing **11.45** Family Guy **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News **1.30** People Just Do Nothing **2.30** Some Girls **3.30** Russell Howard's Good News **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 The Sunday Prom: Richard Strauss Celebration **9.05** Genghis Khan **10.05** Mad Dog: Gaddafi's Secret World – Storyville **11.30** Boycotts and Broken Dreams – The Story of the 1986 Commonwealth Games **12.30** Elvis: That's All Right 60 Years On **1.30** Kings of Rock 'n' Roll **2.30** Rock 'n' Roll Britannia **3.30** Sounds of the 70s

ITV2
12.05 America's Got Talent **2.45 Film:** Small Soldiers (1998) **4.55 Film:** Scooby-Doo (2002) **6.45 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **9.00 Film:** The Holiday (2006) **11.45 Film:** Billy Madison (1995) **1.35** The Big Reunion 2014 **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.35 Inspector Morse **1.50** A Touch of Frost **4.05 Film:** Mutiny on the Buses (1972) **5.55** Inspector Morse **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00 Film:** The American President (1995) **11.20** Wycliffe **12.30** William and Mary **1.25** Sherlock Holmes: The Eligible Bachelor

ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed 2014 **7.00** Goodwood: Cars of the Future **8.00** Premiership Rugby 7s Series **9.00 Film:** Two Mules for Sister Sara (1970) **11.20** Hell on Wheels **12.20 Film:** Barb Wire (1996) **2.15** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store

E4
12.30 Melissa & Joey **1.25** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.25** Suburgatory **2.55** The Mindy Project **3.25** New Girl **3.55** The Big Bang Theory **4.55** The 100 **6.00** Rude(ish) Tube **6.50 Film:** Dear John (2010) **9.00** The Inbetweeners Go Global **10.00** The Inbetweeners: Viewers' Top 5 **12.50** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **1.50** The Big Bang Theory **2.40** Virtually Famous **3.25** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Three Worlds of Gulliver (1960) **1.00** Bride Wars (2009) **2.45** Jungle 2 Jungle (1997) **4.50** Rat Race (2001) **7.05** Sister Act (1992) **9.00** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.10** Boomerang (1992) **1.25** Ashes of Time (1994) **3.20** Close

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Murder Without Conviction, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A former nun becomes fascinated with the case of twins who apparently murdered their mother when she learns one of the brothers is being held in the same care home as her mentally handicapped cousin. Her encounters with the supposed killer leave her convinced of his innocence, and she resolves to uncover the truth behind the crime. Mystery, starring Megan Ward. (2004)

TUESDAY
The Girl He Met Online, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman suffers dangerous mood swings and a fierce temper that have ruined all her past relationships. When she meets a new man, she resolves to keep her dark side in check, but as she comes under pressure from her boss and mother, she begins to lose control, with fatal consequences. Thriller, with Yvonne Zima. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
The Man Without a Face, BBC1, 11.35pm
A reclusive and disfigured former teacher meets a lonely teenager, who hires his services as a tutor to get the grades he needs to enrol at the same military school as his father. In time they form a bond, learning to support each other through life's ups and downs – but the schoolteacher's troubled past is about to catch up with him. Drama, directed by and starring Mel Gibson. With Nick Stahl and Margaret Whitton. (1993)

Duplicity, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
Trust the Man, BBC1, 11.35pm
Two Manhattan-based couples hit a rocky patch in their relationships. Husband and wife Tom and Rebecca look to therapy and counselling to try to save their ailing marriage, while Tobey and Elaine decide to go their separate ways after seven difficult years together. Comedy drama, with David Duchovny. (2005)

FRIDAY
Duplicity, ITV, 10.40pm
A former CIA agent and an ex-MI6 officer find their romantic past catching up with them as they go head to head working in counter-intelligence for multinational corporations. As they try to outmanoeuvre each other to gain information about a lucrative product, they have difficulty maintaining a professional focus amid the sexual tension. Thriller, starring Julia Roberts, Clive Owen, Tom Wilkinson and Paul Giamatti. (2009)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Baby blues begin to kick in for a terrified Rosie

As the success of Call the Midwife and One Born Every Minute proved, pregnancy makes for great TV. But why are we all so fascinated by childbirth?

Writer Kay Mellor, the woman who gave us acclaimed drama series Band of Gold and The Syndicate, has her own theories. She says: "It's a life-changing situation, no matter who you are; whether you're a schoolgirl living in a high-rise council flat or a 46-year-old rich business woman – your life will never be the same again.

"The fact is there are very few 'lessons' on how to give birth and be a parent. We study for three or four years for a degree and yet we're supposed to know instinctively how to give birth and be a good parent – arguably one of the most important roles we'll ever have in life. The truth is young or old, we're all terrified of it – male and female alike."

So, it's no surprise to learn that Kay has been planning to write a series about pregnancies since at least 2000. "I had the idea round about the same time I had the idea for Fat Friends but there was more of an appetite for Fat Friends at the time and so In the Club was put on the back burner."

But now the series' due date has finally arrived. In the Club follows six mums-to-be who are all attending the same parenting class, including midwife Vicky (Christine Bottomley), businesswoman Roanna (Hermione Norris), newlywed Jasmin (Taj Atwal) and teaching assistant and blogger Kim (Katherine Parkinson).

All the women have their own issues to deal with, but the first episode focuses particularly on housewife Diane (Jill Halfpenny), who was told she and husband Rick (Will Mellor) would never conceive. In theory, they should be celebrating their 'miracle child', but when a scan reveals more than they bargained for, unemployed Rick feels under increased pressure to provide for his family.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Rosie (Hannah Midgley) is trying to keep her pregnancy a secret from everyone, but that bump is getting ever harder to hide.

Kay had her first child at 16, and Rosie's story is particularly close to her heart, as the young actress playing her discovered. Hannah (who soap fans may remember as the previous incarnation of Emmerdale's Victoria Sudgen), says: "She told me quite a bit within the first episode as it was nice for me to understand what a 15 year-old would go through when giving birth. She gave me lots of advice, which was really intriguing and intimate. It's so important for me to do it justice for her."

In fact, it seems the bonding process started at the audition. Hannah recalls: "I was really nervous as I saw something in Rosie that I could connect with and I understood her. I also really wanted my next break after leaving Emmerdale…

"Kay said 'let's do this scene' and I was sobbing the whole way through. I got to the end of the scene and I looked up and Kay was streaming. I thought that even if I don't get the part, I can be proud of myself as it was a good audition."

And with five more emotional stories to tell, chances are she won't be the only one crying by the end of the series.

Hannah Midgley stars, In the Club, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

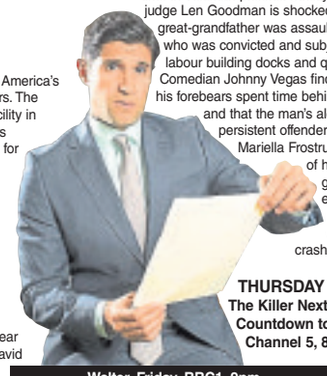
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
World War One Remembered from the Battlefield
BBC2, 6.30pm
Huw Edwards in London and Sophie Raworth in Belgium introduce live coverage of a commemorative event marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Dan Snow hosts from St Symphorien military cemetery near Mons, where British, Commonwealth and German soldiers are buried side by side. Gareth Malone leads a children's choir singing their own specially written song, and actor Eddie Redmayne and serving British and German soldiers read poems and testimonies. There is also a recording of a collaboration between the London Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of conductor Simon Rattle, performing the last movement of Brahms's German Requiem and Butterworth's A Shropshire Lad.

Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Inge Dart, 66, grew up in Kenya in the dying days of the British Empire, overshadowed by her domineering mother. After becoming pregnant at the age of 19, she was sent halfway around the world to give birth in secret. Banished to Surrey, she was taken in by a couple who looked after her until her daughter was born. Inge's childhood sweetheart Jeremy soon visited and the young lovers spent what little time they had with their baby. Long Lost Family takes on Inge's search for her child and, in a first for the programme, her daughter's own search for her father Jeremy. Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell present.

TUESDAY
Kids Behind Bars
ITV, 9pm
Documentary meeting some of America's most dangerous young offenders. The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Indiana is home to 40 teenagers serving terms of up to 65 years for a range of serious crimes. This programme follows those spending their first night in the maximum-security prison and others preparing to move up to adult jail. They include Blake Layman, 17, sentenced to 55 years for murder, and Ireland MacKean, 16, who says he wants to stay out of trouble behind bars as he starts a 10-year term for robbery. Narrated by David Morrissey.

WEDNESDAY
Secrets from the Clink
ITV, 9pm
The first of a two-part programme in which celebrities embark on an emotional journey to discover how their ancestors coped with serving time in Victorian prisons. Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman is shocked to learn his great-great-grandfather was assaulted by his own son, who was convicted and subjected to hard labour building docks and quarrying for stone. Comedian Johnny Vegas finds out how one of his forebears spent time behind bars for stealing, and that the man's alcoholic wife was a persistent offender. Broadcaster Mariella Frostrup hears the story of her great-great-grandfather, an entrepreneur who resorted to fraud when the economy crashed in the 1870s.


Walter, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Killer Next Door: Countdown to Murder
Channel 5, 8pm
It was Christmastime 2010, and landscape architect Joanna Yeates' family were getting extremely worried about her. The 25-year-old hadn't been seen for days, but it was on Christmas Day – eight days after she was killed – that Joanna's body was discovered. The second series of this at times hard-hitting programme begins with a dramatic reconstruction of the moments leading up to Joanna's death, and explains how she originally moved to Bristol for work in 2008 – her boyfriend Greg Reardon worked for the same company. In October 2010, they moved to a new flat, acquiring new neighbour – quiet Dutch engineer Vincent Tabak – but he would go on to murder Joanna two month later.

FRIDAY
Walter
BBC1, 9pm
One-off comedy drama, starring Adrian Dunbar as world-weary detective inspector Walter Gambon, whose workload increases when he is handed the cases of an officer who recently committed suicide – and ends up trying to track down yet another fellow officer who has gone so far undercover, nobody knows where he is. Helping Gambon is young, slightly clumsy and more than a little bit stupid detective constable Anne Hopkins – and together they track down the cop in question to a hardened drugs gang.

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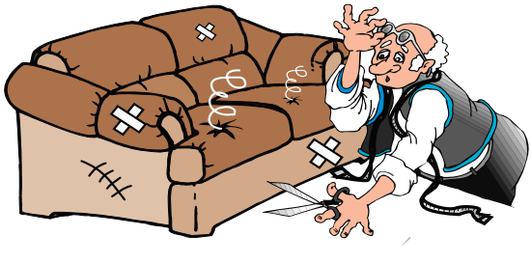
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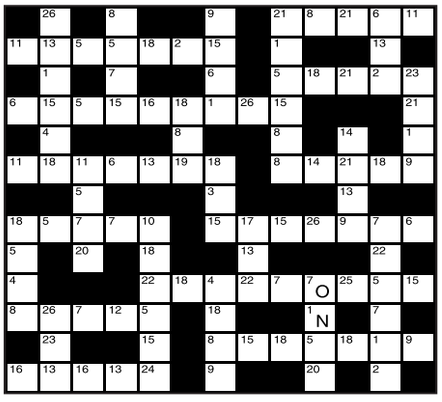
BRAIN GYM No.284

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1 N	14
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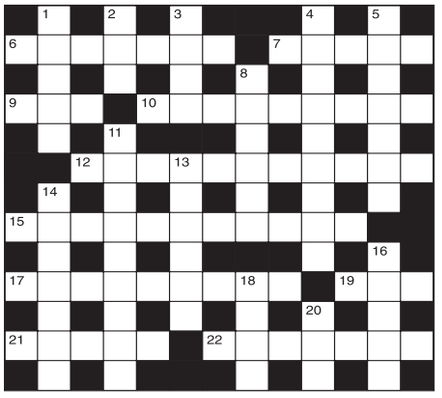
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	P	X	A	F	Q	U	Y	O	M	T	R	D
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	V	J	Z	G	W	C	E	K	S	L	H	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6 & 7Ac. The sort of tax from which London benefits? (7,5)
7. See 6 Across
9. See 19 Across
10. Didn't take a straight course to the sea (9)
12. Mixes drinks for second-hand markets (6-5)
15. Being fair, they don't say anything! (4,7)
17. Temporary accommodation for campanologists? (4-5)
19 & 9Ac. A Royal Marine permitted to show a badge (6)
21. A piece of music (low notes) required for the tumbler (5)
22. Produce a score to put somebody at ease (7)

Down

1. Arrived with nothing but a kind of brooch (5)
2. Mine is upset by this dump (3)
3. A stone horse of little use (4)
4. He dictates what the rates will be (4-5)
5. Shockingly enraged (7)
8. Restrict enemy movements on a rotational basis, we hear (6)
11. Frilly pieces underneath with animal skins all round (9)
13. When this projectile gets in, it's news (6)
14. Panacea for a learner in cruel confusion (4-3)
16. Right in the money, but this indicates bankruptcy (5)
18. Use the horn as well near the end of the street (4)
20. South Pennsylvania provides a treatment centre (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Obstruction (7)
7. Vex (5)
9. Attempt (3)
10. Stakes (9)
12. Compensation (11)
15. Understaffed (5-6)
17. Society (9)
19. Passage (3)
21. Representative (5)
22. Unresisting (7)

Down

1. Ward off (5)
2. Thirsty (3)
3. Sharp (4)
4. Not wanted (9)
5. Satisfied (7)
8. Keep (6)
11. Harm (9)
13. Near (2,4)
14. By means of (7)
16. Forgo (5)
18. Salver (4)
20. Request (3)

Sudoku

			1				5	9
	8	1			5			2
	9			7			6	
8			6			2		
9	6			1			4	5
		5			3			1
4				3		9		
	3		5			8	7	
2	7				8		1	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	5	6	7	3	1	8	2
6	1	7	8	5	2	3	4	9
2	8	3	9	1	4	6	5	7
5	6	2	4	8	7	9	3	1
9	7	8	5	3	1	4	2	6
1	3	4	2	6	9	5	7	8
8	5	9	7	4	6	2	1	3
7	2	1	3	9	5	8	6	4
3	4	6	1	2	8	7	9	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Blotting paper; 8 Dominant; 9 Bomb; 10 Papers; 12 Torrid; 14 Detail; 16 Deigns; 18 Rood; 20 Tolerate; 22 Electric razor. Down: 1 Allocate; 2 Strike; 3 Lima; 4 Agitated; 5 Camber; 6 Seam; 11 Solitary; 13 Ignition; 15 Addict; 17 Inroad; 19 Oils; 21 Lock. QUICK - Across: 7 Overstatement; 8 Pretence; 9 Need; 10 Tureen; 12 Gossip; 14 Hectic; 16 Hustle; 18 Face; 20 Nonsense; 22 Contemplation. Down: 1 Overture; 2 Writhe; 3 Stun; 4 Strength; 5 Amends; 6 Once; 11 Nickname; 13 Illusion; 15 Treaty; 17 Sheath; 19 Atom; 21 Null.

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Extended family house has four large bedrooms

AN extended detached fhome in Long Lane, Halesowen, has a refitted bathroom.

Having four bedrooms and a box room it is for sale through Humberstones Homes at £299,950. It has an entrance hall with under-stairs storage, a dining room with feature fireplace, a lounge with a feature fireplace and patio door to rear garden. The breakfast kitchen has wood effect units. There is also a utility room and a shower room. There are four bedrooms and a box room and bathroom with a white suite including a shower cubicle and bath. Contact Humberstones Homes on 0121 678 7788 or visit www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk

This spacious home is in a sought-after location

IN a desirable location at Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, this four double bedroomed detached house is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £449,950.

It has an entrance porch, living room with a bay window and a fireplace, a conservatory, hallway with a storage cupboard, a dining room with a bay window, utility and a cloakroom. The kitchen is fitted with a range of wall and base units incorporating electric cooker with a gas hob.

The master bedroom has a range of fitted wardrobes and en suite including a corner bath and shower cubicle. Bedroom two has fitted wardrobes while bedroom four has a storage cupboard. The bathroom has a suite including a bath with a shower. There is a lawn and patio. Contact Hicks Hadley on 01562 510440 or visit www.hickshadley.com

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LARKHILL ROAD
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WORDSLEY

STABLE LODGE
FOR SALE £124,950
Impressive, well presented property in private courtyard Comprising of: Entrance Hall, Large Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen/ Diner, One Bedroom, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking

STOURBRIDGE

EVOLUTION
FOR SALE £99,950
Spacious Modern Second Floor Flat, in Good Location Comprising of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms with En suite to Master Bedroom, Bathroom. Benefits include Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking

LOWER GORNAL

TEMPLE STREET
FOR SALE £99,950
Character Freehold Mid Terrace Property with No Upward Chain. To Include: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Benefits from: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Long Rear Garden.

STOURBRIDGE

WILDACRES
£660 pcm*
Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

NETHERTON

BUSH ROAD
£110 per week*
First Floor Maisonette, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

MANCROFT CLOSE
£775 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Large Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Cloakroom, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Single Garage, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

KINGSWINFORD

GREENCROFT
£575 pcm*
Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Parking for 2 cars, Unfurnished

AMBLECOTE

KING WILLIAM STREET
£380 pcm*
SHARED HOUSE, Ground Floor: Communal Kitchen and Bathroom with shower, Two Bedrooms, First Floor: Two Bedrooms, Office, Communal Toilet, Part Furnished, Gas Central Heating, Communal Gardens, Rent to include utility bills.

KINGSWINFORD

GRANTLEY CRESCENT
£825 pcm*
Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Area, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

BRIERLEY HILL

THE BREEZE
£550 pcm*
4th Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Communal Gardens, NO PETS/ NO DSS

DUDLEY

SALOP STREET
£385 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat. Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, One Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, DSS considered. No Pets.

LYE

TALBOT STREET
£410 pcm*
Modern Ground Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.

BRIERLEY HILL

ADELAIDE STREET
£495 pcm*
Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Loft Room, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

STOURBRIDGE

RIDGE GROVE
£595 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens.

BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW
£450 pcm*
Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking, Front & Side Garden, Gas Central Heating, DSS Considered

SWINDON

HIGH STREET
£495 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Parking at Rear

KINGSWINFORD

MANOR PARK
£575 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Entrance Hall, Lounge with feature fireplace, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Central Heating, Double Glazing, Alarm System

LYE

STOURBRIDGE ROAD
£350 to £375 pcm*
Choice of Ground or First Floor Flats, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom or Shower Room, Parking at rear, Communal Grounds, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, NO PETS/NO DSS.

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ASHTREE ROAD
£395 pcm*
Ground Floor Maisonette, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Communal Grounds, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

PENSNETT

HEYDON ROAD
£595 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Off Road Parking

HALESOWEN

BLOOMFIELD ST WEST
£525 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

HALESOWEN

ATTWOOD STREET
£525 pcm*
Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Rear Garden

UPPER GORNAL

HILL STREET
£400 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Parking for 1 Car, Gardens Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

(Administration/application fees will apply)

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TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPERTY SERVICES

QUARRY PARK ROAD STOURBRIDGE

An impressive seven bedroom detached family home situated in a very desirable location and being close to Hagley village. The accommodation comprises of: Grand reception hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility, cloakroom, rear entrance hall, seven double bedrooms five of which have en suite facilities, family bathroom and a spacious first floor landing/seating area with door out to a balcony. The property further boasts paved parking for numerous vehicles, single garage with up and over garage doors and landscaped lawned gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£3995PCM DEPOSIT £4095 + FEES

CASTLE MEWS STOURTON CASTLE

An extremely well presented three bedroom mews style property situated in a popular semi rural location within the grounds of Stourton Castle. Accommodation comprises of dining room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and allocated parking. Unfurnished EPC RATING = D DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£795PCM DEPOSIT £895+ FEES

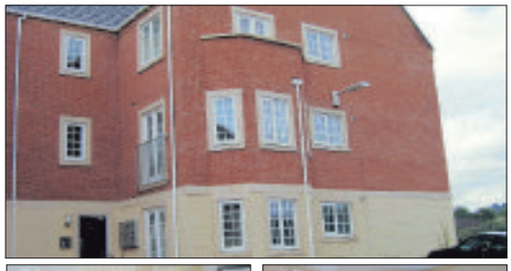
NEW INSTRUCTION

MAYNARD AVENUE NORTON

A well presented three bedroom end terrace property situated in a popular residential location, accommodation to comprise of : Reception hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, the property further benefits form gas central heating, majority double glazing and front and rear gardens.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£650 PCM DEPOSIT £750 + FEES



COLUMBUS AVENUE MERRY HILL

A prestigious two bedroom furnished ground floor apartment located on the popular Merry Hill Complex. Accommodation comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Area, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms - Master with En Suite. The property further benefits from double glazing and central heating.

FURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM - Deposit £675 + FEES

WATERWAYS DRIVE OLDBURY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and enclosed rear garden and off road parking.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£550PCM DEPOSIT £650 + FEES

CHAPEL STREET LYE

A spacious three bedroom link detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating, enclosed rear garden with patio area and blocked paved driveway to the fore affording off road parking.

UNFURNISHED EPC=E" DSS: NO CHILDREN:: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM DEPOSIT £650 +FEES

BRIARS CLOSE BRIERLEY HILL

Well presented Modern two bedroom Mid Terrace property with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts off road parking and enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS:NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES

HIGH STREET HARBORNE

A spacious two bedroom first floor maisonette with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts electric storage heating, roof terrace and off road parking.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES

NEW INSTRUCTION

ALBERT STREET LYE

A well presented three bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, inner hall, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden with patio area and lawn and shared entry to the front. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E

DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT£595 +FEES

ALLSOP CLOSE ROWLEY REGIS

A very well presented two bedroom starter home in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises: Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, fore garden laid to lawn and enclosed rear garden with patio area. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 + FEES

HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A delightful two bedroom period property situated in a prominent location with accommodation comprising of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear garden and gravelled driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 + FEES

LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

A well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in the heart of Stourbridge Town Centre with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase at the rear of the property to the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM- DEPOSIT £475+FEES

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NEW INSTRUCTION

FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A well presented and recently refurbished one bedroom semi detached house situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor landing with built in airing cupboard, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having lawned fore garden, bin store, allocated parking, gas central heating and double glazing. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£395 PCM £495 DEPOSIT + FEES

Boost for younger drivers

Cash-strapped young drivers rejoice – Vauxhall is to offer drivers between 18 and 20 one year's insurance cover for a one-off payment of £99.

To qualify, you'll need to opt for one of Vauxhall's Corsa Excite or Limited Edition models.

The car maker is teaming up with insurance provider ingenie, and each car is fitted with 'black box' technology which monitors driving style, including speed, acceleration, braking and cornering.

As an added bonus, to reward good driving, each driver can earn the entire cost of the insurance back with good driving.

Score

That's because every 10 days, or 40 miles, ingenie will provide the driver with a score based on how well they are driving, along with feedback messages in a smartphone app on how to improve, and how much money they're on track to save. After every three months, an overall score is provided and money can be reclaimed.

Commenting on the promotion, Mark Pinkney, Vauxhall's marketing programmes manager, said: "This is groundbreaking news for young drivers, some of whom could still be paying upwards of £2,000 for insurance when they're 18. We wanted to provide young drivers who buy their cars through Vauxhall retailers with affordable insurance to help them get on the road."

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in mpg (l/100km): Urban 70.6 (4.0), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 emissions: 94 g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes & may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic registered from 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Civic Black Special Edition Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on Civic 1.6 i-DTEC Black Special Edition in Crystal Black Pearl at £22,460 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £0 (0%) deposit, £408.29 monthly payment, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £7,761.73 annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 6p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. Honda Finance Europe Plc. is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **The 5 Year Care Package includes: Servicing:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary Hondacare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes fi rst. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is **being offered for £555 including VAT** (usual value £1,845 including VAT, resulting in a £1,290 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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Fabia special at dealerships

A new special edition version of the Skoda Fabia hatch has gone on sale at UK dealers, offering exceptional value for money.

Costing only £9,595, buyers will get extra standard equipment at no cost as well as more than 20 per cent off the original recommended retail price.

Furthermore, customers will also get a three-year/30,000-mile free servicing package at no additional cost if the car is bought using Solutions personal contract plan from Skoda Finance.

Available with Skoda's acclaimed 1.2-litre 69PS petrol engine, the car is available in any of the Fabia's full range of colours, including metallic paint options at no extra cost.

Alloy

The Fabia SE comes as standard with 15in alloy wheels, extra rear speakers, manual air conditioning, tinted glass, electric door mirrors and remote central locking. The special edition version, which is based on the SE, includes a spare wheel and metallic paint for no extra cost. That represents additional value of £600.

No other factory-fit optional extras can be added to the car and the offer only applies to the Skoda Fabia Hatch, not the Estate.

The Fabia SE has previously been priced at £12,580 on the road. At just £9,595 –that's a discount of £2,985 (23.7 per cent) – this new model represents outstanding value for money.

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3 Home & Services

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ERCOL Welsh Dresser 4 plate width dk oak, corner unit c/w upper glass shelves/light&lower cupboard,excellent condition/offers 01902 898458

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07918 809020.

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in your garden

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items for sale

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4 Pets & Animals

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WOODBURNING / MULTIFUEL Stoves. Flues, installation. Free surveys. Stourbridge 01384 390183. severnvalleystoves.com

equestrian corner

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TWO SMART registered welsh pony geldings, 2 years, quiet, £30 ono. 07875 558565.

guns & dogs

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEAUTIFUL BOXER Puppy dog, 18 months old, neutered, chipped, healthy, very friendly, house trained. 07980 255893.

BLACK LABRADOR PUPPIES. KC reg. Pets or workers. 9 weeks, hip & eye scored. £375. 01902 850633.

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COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES, 1 bitch, 1 dog, excellent pedigree, KC registered. 07971 608893.

KITTENS 1 Tabby, silver / black / white, 1 white / black kitten, wormed litter trained, £40 each. Please call 07765 103474

KITTENS. 9 wks old, short haired, 2 grey/white & 2 black/white. Beautiful markings, litter trained. £20ea to ensure good home 07884 334818

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STAFFIE CROSS 1 year old, bitch, spayed and microchipped, £75. 07983 329053.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER puppies, nine weeks old, fully vaccinated, vet checked and wormed, beautiful, friendly pups, £400. 07804 744538.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTS, BOOK KEEPING, PAYROLL, VAT New start-ups welcome. Phone Clover on: 01384 459714 or 07715 510749.

businesses for sale

PUBLIC HOUSE, High Street venue near Wolverhampton, £5,500 plus weekly. Free of tie lease, £48,900. 07980 042593.

6 Property

accommodation wanted

ROOM WANTED with bathroom / toilet facilities, quiet, male student, rent / share, Stourbridge / Brierley Hill. 01384 820361. 07587 508296.

properties wanted

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accommodation to let

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BRIERLEY HILL nice, large, 1 bed flat, part furnished, off road parking. £400pcm. 07877 673330.

BRIERLEY HILL
Nice one bedroom flats to let. DG, CH, shower, new fitted kitchen, £90pw inc council tax. No DSS.
Please call 07803 890908.

BRIERLEY HILL/ Pensett/ Dudley, 1 bed flat, Deposit / rent neg. 0121 550 0064 or 07970 980955.

DUDLEY & STOURBRIDGE AREA Houses / Flats, DSS welcome. 07831 200692 / 01562 885668

FLAT TO LET WOLVERHAMPTON 1/2 bed CH, DSS welcome. Off road parking. 07718 896058.

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ROOM IN shared house, £70pw all inclusive, near Cradley Heath Station, suit employed over 30. Call 07837 653830.

SMART ROOMS in shared house in Netherton. Single £75, Double £95. pwk inc bills, No Dss. Suit females. 01384 401747 (off)/07940 116130.

TIVIDALE, one bed flat, DSS accepted (1-bed rate). Call or text 07779 615293.

overseas property

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property exchanges

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2 bed Bungalow, 11 miles North of Kidderminster, for 2 bed Bungalow in Halesowen, Stourbridge or surrounding area.
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COUNCIL EXCHANGE
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Telephone 07721 864871.

7 Jobs

finance & accounting

BOOKKEEPER required for medium sized company with 2½ million pounds turnover. Applicants must be competent in operating SAGE Line 50 computer system. Duties include: maintenance of both sales and purchase ledgers, invoicing, daily cashbooks and daily banking using our online banking system. Hours: 9am-5pm. Salary £9.50 p.h. Apply in writing to: Mr R Jones, Process Flow Components Ltd., Unit 12 & 13 Providence Industrial Estate, Lye, Stourbridge DY9 8HQ.

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW Z3 1,9, Special Edition, bright red, power hood, AC, walnut centre console, 1998 reg, 46k, lady owner, FSH, £3,500. 07460 477252.

CITROEN C5 1.6 HDi 2009, 8 mths MoT, 4 mths Tax. SH, blue, cambelt changed, good condition. £2,750. 01902 258138 / 07446 072217.

FIAT 500, 'Pre-loved' 59 plate. 17,230 miles, Tax/MoT till Feb 15, white, 1 lady owner, Bluetooth built in. £5,500. o.n.o. 07922 571747 .

FIAT PANDA 2011, 1.2, roof bars, 32,000 miles, 9 months Mot, 12 months Tax. £3,500. 07792 259319. Wombourne.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC, 2004, 81,000 miles, silver, air bag, MoT, central locking, tax, new tyres. £2,200 ono. 07875 446206.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec, 03 reg, 12 months MoT, three new tyres. £1,595. 01902 675914 / 07989 250447.

HONDA CIVIC VTEC SE SPORT
2002, 64,000 miles, metallic blue, fsh, MoT, tax. Excellent condition. Genuine reason for sale.
£1,595.
07447 250737.

MAZDA 6, automatic, 2006, 48,500 miles, silver, air con, MoT, cruise control, excellent condition. £3,150. 07860 544386.

MAZDA MX5 1993, 6 months tax and MoT, excellent condition, high mileage, £1,000 ono. 07979 405407.

MERCEDES C180 ELEGANCE ESTATE
2001, 68,000 miles, silver, auto, tax Nov 2014, MoT May 2015. Looks good in/out, drives well.
Bargain £1,995 ono.
07831 680584.

MERCEDES CLK220 Avantgarde A, Coupe, 06, diesel, silver, tax, MoT, SH, outstanding condition, £4,495 ono. 01746 862982.

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES CLS 350 GRAND EDITION
2010. 3 Litre Turbo Diesel. Silver With Black Leather. 68,000 Miles. Auto. Climate Control. Sat Nav And All Usual Refinements. Taxed and MoT.
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PRESTIGE

NISSAN NOTE 1.4 N TEC + taxed, 12 months breakdown cover on a 12 plate, top of range with half leather seats, sat nav etc, 14,700 miles, super condition, must be seen
£7,750 ono.
01902 331155.

PEUGEOT 307 CONVERTIBLE 2.0, 2004, leather interior, almost fsh. Immaculate. Call for more details, £1,850 o.n.o. 07455 022100.

RENAULT CLIO, 2003, 41,000 miles, silver, MoT, one owner, tax, full service history, great condition. £2,250 ono. 07896 346626.

SEAT IBIZA 2006, 45,000 miles, 12 months MoT, Tax end Sept, black, CL, good runner. £3,195. 07793 066778. Wolverhampton.

SUBARU LEGACY SPORTSWAGON
2009, 72,050 miles, excellent condition, diesel, black, fsh, long MoT, one owner, tax.
£7,500 ono.
07973 909392.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9CDTI ELITE
Superb family car, good condition. Vauxhall Roof Bars and Parrot Bluetooth. Vauxhall FSH, MOT till January 2015, Tax till March 2015. 60000 miles
£6,250
07814478766

VW GOLF SE
2003, 90,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, long MoT, auto, central locking, one owner, pas, diesel, tax.
£1,950 ono.
01384 872648.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ALFA ROMEO 147 T Spark Luso, 121k miles, black, very quick, 6 months tax and tested, lots of history. £1450 ono. 01952 750878.

BMW 520iSE R reg, , MoT early Dec, 98k, Auto, excellent condition for year, £550. 01902 677102.

BMW 528i AUTO 1999, taxed, MoT, Family car for last 12 years, bargain £675. 07837 130333.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO, 2002, red, electric windows, MoT, diesel, tax, stereo. £300. 07455 234623.

FORD FOCUS Ghia, 1998cc, 4dr saloon, 2001 reg, 117,000 miles, tax and MoT, £650 ono. 07915 615870.

FORD FUSION 2 03 plate, 1400 cc, recent cam belt, gold metallic colour, MoT 04/15, tax 09/14, any trial, £950 ono. 01384 864058.

FORD KA 1300 silver, colour coded, 73,000 miles, clean car, 2002, MoT till March, 2015, tax till Sep 2014, £450. 01902 674562.

FORD KA 2002, tax, MoT, 62k, very clean car, £450.
07778 294979.

MAZDA MX5 SPORTS 1.6, J reg., low mileage, 11 months MoT, new hood (cost £350), reluctant sale, £650 o.n.o 07980 430350.

MERCEDES E220 CLASSIC
1994, long tax/MoT, auto, all electrics, 104k , 2 owners, CD changer, superb engine/box, 40mpg, black/grey, retired pensioner owner, bargain
£825 ono. 07423 594694.

NISSAN MICRA 53 reg, 5 months tax, 11 months MoT, 3-dr, £750 ono. 07939 797979.

NISSAN PRIMERA ESTATE, 2000, SE+, 70,000 miles only, blue, MoT, tax, top of the range, spares or repair. £400 ono. 07963 269407.

PEUGEOT 206 1.2 X reg, silver, lady owner, tax/MoT, 4dr, EW, EM, PAS, good condition £695.
0121 5327153 or 07729 932157.

PEUGEOT 206 2000, Roland Garros, 5-dr, full glass roof, leather seats, EW, EM CL, 69k, alloys, MoT March, £795. 07977 458066.

PEUGEOT 206 GTi, 2000 X reg, 120k miles, manual, MoT, alloys, new brakes, remote stereo, £595. 07950 398750.

PEUGEOT 306XS 1.4 1996, 73,000 Miles, blue, long MoT, tax SR new clutch n just serviced £375 ono 07591414111

PEUGEOT 307 diesel, HDi, 2004, 73K, 5dr, silver, MoT, tax, FSH, 2 owners, good condition, £1,400. 07838 897643.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC SPORT 1.6. Y reg, 10 mths MoT, CD-Radio, Used daily. Many extras. £450. o.n.o. 07462 946232

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC SPORT 1.6. Y reg, 10 mths MoT, CD-Radio, Used daily. Many extras. £350. o.n.o. 07462 946232.

ROVER 75 1.8, 2000 X reg, 1 former owner, 27k from new, SH, £1,295. 01562 710289.

ROVER 75 1.8, 2000 X reg, 1 former owner, 27k from new, SH, £1,295. 01562 710289 .

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6, full MoT, 2 months Tax, very good condition for year, serviced regular. £1,295 ono. 07795 139674.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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10 Personals

personal

BLACK COUNTRY GIRL: 66 'YOUNG AT HEART'.
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I AM LOOKING FOR SARAH WHO LIVES IN WOLVERHAMPTON
We met with some Friends at The Bulldog Hotel Bar, Amsterdam.
Left without leaving any details.
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Box Number P19365 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, 70
Wishes to meet Kind caring gentleman with GSOH of similar age for friendship. Would like homely man, divorced or maybe Bachelor and someone who likes cookery, animals, wildlife, countryside.
Box Number P19359 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE 62
5ft 10ins, considered attractive, medium build, genuine, considerate, seeking lady similar age for friendship and general social outings.
Box Number P19363 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

STRAIGHT LADY LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS
Male and female. I am a young late 50s, looking for friends for nights out, cinema, theatre, drinks, meals, must be a driver aswell.
Box Number P19355, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Women seeking men

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FUN loving lady, likes most things in life, would like to meet fun loving man for possible romance. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4454362**

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297**

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005**

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987**

JAN 5ft8ins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127**

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911**

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 408297**

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojo! No strings, go on call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599**

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412387**

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. **Tel: 0905 002 1945 Box No: 412285**

JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167**

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725**

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377**

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359**

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517**

GWENDOLINE honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, holidays and nights out for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412293**

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321**

SARA bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you, don't be shy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055**

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037**

ANNABELL 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177**

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041**

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777**

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039**

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763**

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695**

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691**

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTM similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119**

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745**

JEAN young at heart lady, active, 70 plus, N/S, GSOH, likes walks, gardening, outings, WLTM sincere, caring male, 69-74 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411711**

TINA sexy black female looking for healthy distractions with fun adult companion, interested? You won't be disappointed, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411519**

LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219**

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CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919**

EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281**

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459**

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410765**

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty, easy going, broadminded looking for likeminded male with plenty of va va voom, 35-45. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717**

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329**

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411049**

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410641**

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or out. Age, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565**

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949**

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ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637**

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721**

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543**

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415**

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911**

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499**

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331**

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461**

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395**

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715**

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895**

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117**

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733**

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925**

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955**

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151**

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089**

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877**

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869**

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733**

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311**

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253**

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259**

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955**

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419**

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

LONELY male, disabled, would like to meet male or female for company. Likes animals, visiting historical places, karaoke. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4172884**

FUN loving easy going guy, 30, tall dark and handsome, looking for an older woman who likes good times and fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4453744**

MALE WLTM pear shaped lady, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411109**

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks female, 58-71, GSOH, genuine, caring for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413375**

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413315**

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413183**

GENT widower, late 60's, looks younger, GSOH, likes music, good food, country pursuits, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413173**

TONY young looking 50's male, 5ft 8ins, many interests, easy going, seeks slim rock chick or similar for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413275**

6FT 1ins slim, dark hair, likes walking, animals, seeking medium build female, 60-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413193**

JEFF young 62, N/S, tall, fit, energetic, seeking new female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413053**

JOHN 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, various interests, seeks female for friendship/relationship, 35-52. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413107**

RETIRED male, seeking no strings adult fun and frolics, discretion assured, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413067**

TONY young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413049**

KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412869**

NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412867**

MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim-medium build. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412859**

MALE seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412705**

STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633**

MALCOLM 61, smoker, great personality, likes coach holidays, drives, pubs, meals out, nights out, 60's music, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412523**

TONY 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481**

TALL 42yr old sincere male, caring, honest, loving, seeking female, 30-40 for fun, friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412483**

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261**

ROY mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083**

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227**

IAN 65, romantic, likes to wine/dine, days out, seeking younger female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412087**

MARK fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411989**

FIT bubbly male, athletic, blue eyes, short fair hair, easy going, loving, GSOH, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411901**

TOM 31, seeking female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411165**

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TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823**

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411801**

MALE 74, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim lady of similar age for days out, holidays and walks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411673**

TALL mature male, seeks younger, attractive mixed race lady for spoiling and pampering. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411505**

PHIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no strings discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411461**

DEE 49, divorced, handsome, fit, slim, seeks lady, any age for lasting, meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411415**

MARK 5ft 11ins, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, athletic, likes nights in/out, socialising, meals out, pubs, seeks female with similar interests and GSOH for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411335**

SLIM attractive Asian male, GSOH, seeks likeminded discreet female for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411305**

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Brothers put on good show in bat

Stourbridge 2nd XI 168
Ombersley 2nd XI 290-8
(Ombersley winning draw)

OMBERSLEY skipper won the toss and decided to bat first on the dry summer track.

Tom and SamOakley made the best of their fortunes putting on 175 between them with 94no and 81 respectively. Umar Khalid's 75 proved the highest for the home team who were under the cosh for most of the match.

Stourbridge 3rd XI 192
Old Elizabethans 109
(Stourbridge win)

Cricket

A team effort from emerging young stars at Stourbridge CC produced an easy win for the skipper Dave Colesby who had decided to bat first.

It was Colesby's mammoth effort batting two and half hours that helped. He scored 34 as youngsters Scott Ludlum (21) and Tom Jennings (21) provided the backup runs.

Opposition gave away 58 in extras to give the home side a defendable score. Teenagers Alex Colman and Areef Mohammed then between them shared three wickets a piece to give their side the victory.

Old Elizabethan's 4th XI 106
Stourbridge 4th XI 243-8
(Stourbridge win)

Fireworks came early at Neel Park ground, Worcester the display provided by Stour batsmen.

The first sparks came from the skipper Keith Litster who set the tone by blasting 42 off 21 balls that included nine fours.

Batting at six Alistair Davidson joined in the fray with 64 off 53 balls made with 12 boundaries. A calmer knock of 47 came from a young star Sam Rodgerson made from 60 deliveries in the middle order.

Andy Mitchell managed to capture three wickets from his seven overs for 45. Dominic O'Reilly a young emerging off-spinner at the club made batting difficult for the opposition taking the middle order wickets of Nick Pullan (28), Padgraig Wheeler (0), and Charlie Martin (21).

O'Reilly ended up with 4-29 off 12 overs. Mohammed Shoaib Iqbal took three-12 off his four overs to add to his 22 runs to give his side a comfortable win.

Brace from Ben gives Glassboys good win

Stourport Swifts 1
Stourbridge 4

TWO goals from Ben Billingham helped steer Stourbridge to a convincing pre-season victory at Walshes Meadow.

Jordan Fitzpatrick and George Washbourne were also on target for the Evo-Stik NPL side with triallist Andre Rodrigues hitting a consolation for the home side.

The visitors dominated the first half chances with skipper Sean Geddes forcing a good save from Brendon Bunn inside the first five minutes of the game.

The breakthrough, however, came not longer after the half hour mark on 34 minutes.

Billingham managed to stay on his feet in spite of being harangued by Ashley Parsons-Smith and managed to rifle his shot home, the ball bouncing off the luckless Bunn.

The Glassboys doubled their lead six minutes after the break, Billingham diverting a Sam Rock shot beyond the keeper, with Fitzpatrick blasting home the third midway through the half.

Swifts netted with a close range effort from Rodrigues before Washbourne cut in off the wing to wrap up the scoring in the final minute.

Triathlete Jodie is a double golden girl

QUIETLY-SPOKEN Oldbury triathlete Jodie Stimpson is developing a thing for bling.

She leaves the Commonwealth Games with her reputation enhanced and her medal collection swollen by two golds.

Stimpson, 25, followed up her individual success in Glasgow by joining forces with Alistair and Jonny Brownlee and Vicky Holland to dominate again at Strathclyde Park.

The mixed relay sees athletes take turns to race over a 250m swim, 6km bike and 1.6km run course and Olympic champion Alistair Brownlee started the anchor leg with a healthy advantage.

His brother, Stimpson and Holland were laughing and joking on the finish line, knowing gold was on the way.

"It's been an incredible couple of days," said Stimpson, after England finished the race 49 seconds ahead of South Africa and Australia.

"The pressure was on us because we were all on the podium for the individual event. However, I've been in these dream teams before and it's not worked out.

"Things can always go wrong but thankfully we got our tactics spot on. The Olympic distance hurts like hell but this hurts too, probably because you are racing for a team and putting everything on the line."

World No.2 Stimpson is no stranger to success, having finished as the runner-up in last year's World Championships, but double gold in Scotland will move her to another level in terms of recognition. She will now target races in Stockholm and Edmonton, though

Commonwealth Games

American Gwen Jorgensen looks to have an unassailable advantage in the World Championship rankings with two events to come.

"Things back home have exploded for me this week," added Stimpson, who credits coach Darren Smith for turning around her career after she missed London 2012.

"My area has always been a great support to me ever since I was a junior and just starting out in sport. Lots of friends and family travelled up to watch my races and having them here has made things even more special.

"I've been gobsmacked by all of the messages I've received on social media, it still takes some getting used to when people you don't know cheer for you and shout your name.

"This was my big target of the year and emotionally I need to recharge the batteries before I start thinking about the rest of the season. I'm just really excited about what I could achieve in the future now."

Big crowds lined the relay course which is popular with fans and athletes alike.

Mongan to step up a level after medal win

European Schoolboys Championships bronze medal winner, Jerry Monganat Priory Park ABC, Dudley

JERRY MONGAN will step up to junior level next season as the World No.3 after his exploits at the AIBA European Schoolboys Championship.

The 14-year-old, from Priory Park Boxing Club in Dudley, came back from Hungary with a bronze medal earlier this month, captaining the England team.

Only the world's best at 54kg, Emin Khataev, could halt his challenge on a split decision in a nail-biting medal fight, as the Russian retained his title on a split decision.

Mongan, from Stourport, had rolled over Ireland's Michael McDonagh by a unanimous points call to set up the meeting. Despite defeat, it capped off a great season.

The tall and rangy teenager won his first national title in April's England Schoolboys, but will leave that scene behind in the coming months.

The England Junior and that European counterpart, along with next year's World Championships will be on the agenda as well as England camps, with Mongan fighting at a heavier weight.

Priory Park trainer Warren Davis said: "He's having a rest now, as he's had to maintain his weight for the past four or five months. When he's back in the gym, we will get him ready to box as an when needed."

Swimmer Brittany competes for nation

A STOURBRIDGE schoolgirl who was chosen to represent her nation at a European swimming championship has returned after four days in the Netherlands.

Brittany Horton who is a year 11 pupil at Redhill School, Stourbridge swims for the City of Birmingham Swimming Club.

She was selected as part of the GB team to compete at the European Junior Championships in Dordrecht, along with her coach Carl Grosvenor who was chosen to be part of the training staff.

Horton competed in the 50, 100 and 200 metre backstroke as well as the backstroke leg of the 4x100m relay medley. She came fifth in the final on 100m, fourth in 200m final, with a personal best, and was part of the relay team which also made the final with the team coming third overall on the medals table.

Horton has been swimming since she was five, and joined Halesowen swimming club when she was 10 and then moved to the Stourbridge club a year later where she was their first swimmer to achieve National qualifying times while age 12. At 13 she went to London 2012 Olympic trials.

Skornicki is out for months

POPULAR Polish star Adam Skornicki won't race again this season.

Skornicki has been told he will need to use crutches until October after suffering a dislocated hip when racing for Birmingham in May.

Following the demise of the Brummies, he's been keeping in contact with parent club Wolverhampton.

Promoter Chris Van Straaten said: "Adam went to see a specialist with the hope if being given the all-clear.

"But a dislocated hip can be complicated and he's likely to be on crutches until October to keep as much weight off the hip as possible. I'm sure all Wolverhampton and Birmingham supporters wish him well."

Baird tells Baggies aim for Europe

VERSATILE defender Chris Baird says Albion should target Europe this season.

The Northern Ireland international has been in training in California with his new teammates, after signing on a free from Fulham earlier this year.

He put in a solid performance as he played 90 minutes in a 1-0 win over Sacramento Republic FC, and is now confident for the coming season.

He said: "We should be finishing in the top 10. We've done it before, so why not again? "I did it with Fulham and we can do that here. We have some injuries at the moment so obviously we need those players back, but I think we have what it takes."

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Tipton display their four-ce in derby

Dudley Town 1 Tipton Town 4

Football

TIPTON Town manager Nick Hawkins witnessed his side return to winning ways.

Hawkins saw his side grab a 4-1 victory over West Midlands Premier league side Dudley Town at the Dell stadium. Hawkins made five changes to the starting line up, following the midweek 1-0 away defeat against Black Country Rangers.

It took just eight minutes for Tipton to break the deadlock with Ben Hadley toe-poking from close range following a Kieran Whalin free kick.

The lead was then doubled on the first quarter, when Danny Carrey – Bertram claimed his first goal of the season, and he should have celebrated his second of the game shortly after when, with just James Scarett to beat saw his effect just go wide of the far post.

From the goal kick, Dudley immediately reacted and a neat four man move found Dudley's Christian Ekewelnor who executed a fine volley from close range only to be denied by the post with Cox soundly beaten. Tipton made the game as good as safe on 33 minutes when James "Smudge" Smith headed home from close range

Dudley's Lee Smith pulled a goal back for the home side four minutes later as Tipton went into the break with a two goal cushion.

Despite the early 1pm kick off, the warm weather made it hard work for both teams during the second half as Dudley and Tipton brought in several substitutions.

Ben Cheatle, Josh March, and Mark Ganderton of none of who had made the starting eleven against Black Country on Thursday night were called up to replace Nick Hawkins, Anthony Bevas and Sam Hesson who enjoyed his full game. George Durrell replaced Ben Hadley on the hour.

Kieran Whalin made it 4-1 from the penalty spot on 78 minutes.

Dudley Town: Scarett, Marsh, Reeves, Smith, Jordan, Walker, Arnold, Albert, Ekewelenor, Smith, Jones.

Tipton Town: Cox, Richardson, Coulton, Hawkins (Cheatle 47), Richards, Smith, Whalin, Hesson (Ganderton 60), DCB, Hadley (Durrell 62), Bevas (March 46)

First-half scores do the job for Glassboys

Stratford 1
Stourbridge 2

FIRST-HALF goals from Sean Geddes and Ben Billingham guided Stourbridge to victory.

But the home side pushed the Glassboys all the way, having an effort cleared off the line and another hit the woodwork in the second half.

Skipper Geddes netted the opener on eight minutes, racing on to a through-ball before placing his shot beyond Andy Kemp in the Stratford goal.

But the celebrations were cut short when, just six minutes later, former Walsall trainee Joe Halsall headed in a cross from the left.

Billingham scored what proved to be the winner on 27 minutes, netting with a fierce 10-yard shot following good work from Kayleden Brown and Sam Rock.

Rock then crashed a header against the Stratford bar while, at the other end, a long-range effort from Sam Adkins was turned behind a full-stretch save from Glassboys keeper Dominic Hill.

Stratford had the better of the play after the break.

Simeon Tulloch had an effort cleared off the line by defender Chris Knight before a last-gasp Callum Burgess shot clipped the outside of the post.

McAlinden's staying put

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett will delay any decision to loan out young star Liam McAlinden.

A clutch of League One clubs are interested in taking the 20-year-old striker on a temporary basis. But Jackett, who wants to sign another hitman, is still weighing up what to do with the Cannock-born forward.

"There is some loan interest in Liam," said Jackett.

"But I don't think anything will happen at the moment – he's part of my plans and he's got quicker and stronger from last season."

"We have to try to bring him on and he has to play, and he's a regular with us without having yet made that breakthrough. But I've been pleased with what he's done.

"We'll see what happens but at the moment he isn't going anywhere. We'll assess it as we go."

STOURBRIDGE END VICTORY DROUGHT

Brewood 1st XI 138 Stourbridge 1st XI 142-6
Stourbridge win

Cricket

STOURBRIDGE First XI notched up their first win since May 31 beating Brewood Firsts placed third in Division Two of the Birmingham and District Premier league on 152 points.

The well-earned 20 points will mean Stour go up just one place to Seventh but on 144 points.

Penkridge (189) and Leamington Spa (218) head the field and both sides will be looking to remain there for the two promotion places to Division One

Richard Bradley winning the toss put the opposition in on a dry track. The home side soon found themselves deep in trouble losing the top order on a sound batting pitch.

Damage

Stour had put the squeeze on grabbing six Brewood wickets for 79. Ikram Mudassaq doing the damage bagging five wickets in his opening spell of 11 overs for 43.

He had both the openers Richard Hewitt and Lewis Jelfs caught for a duck and three respectively.

Once the No.3 Andrew Day was trapped LBW by the leggie Audy Alexander for 15 Brewood's middle order tried extravagant shots to rescue them. That strategy worked until Mussadaq struck again in his seventh over bowling skipper Cameron Fox for 22, and in the same over had Chris Tranter smartly caught in the deep for 23. For his fifth wicket he had Richard Rawlinson LBW for seven.

Late order batsmen Luke Bird (12), Dave Wedge (31), and Robbie Byrne (12) played out valuable overs but still gave away five extra overs for Stour to reach the target at leisure.

Stourbridge opener Alex Bingham gave his side a perfect start smashing the first ball from Dave Wedge to the boundary.

Bingham then despatched the third delivery for a second four.

With the extras on offer the first over produced 11 runs making Brewood's effort look insignificant.

Wedge had his revenge when on 10 Bingham was trapped LBW with the team score on 21 in the 4th over.

Steve Game once again looked in superb nick and with his skipper consolidated the score.

Bradley looking equally calm hit a magnificent six only to be out to a soft dismissal caught in the covers off Robbie Byrne soon after. Game carried on with Audy Alexande taking his personal score to 40.

Heroine's welcome home for medals winnerJodie

Jodie Simpson celebrating with her father Ian and mother Jude back at home in Oldbury

COMMONWEALTH Games golden girl Jodie Stimpson has been celebrating her double Glasgow glory at home in Oldbury after the Black Country medal rush continued.

Triathlete Stimpson returned home to a heroine's welcome at the weekend after adding mixed relay gold to her individual triumph.

And the medals kept coming as Halesowen cyclists Helen Scott and Jess Varnish both took to the podium for the second time at Glasgow 2014.

Stimpson's relatives decorated her family home in Oldbury as she returned to spend a week with mum Jude and dad Ian before returning to training.

She said: "I couldn't believe I'd won gold at the time and I still can't now. Even after I'd crossed the finishing line it didn't sink in that I'd done it. It was only when I looked over and saw my family going mad that I realised. I didn't think I'd get a gold."

Friends Scott and Varnish both launched their careers at Halesowen Cycling Club. Scott partnered para-cyclist Sophie Thornhill to gold in the 1km time trial tandem.

Scott, the pilot for visually-impaired Thornhill, revealed the prospect of topping another podium kept them going through agony.

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Legend gets big welcome

LEGENDARY speedway ace Billy Hamill was overwhelmed by the massive turnout for his return to the Black Country.

'The Bullet', who made more than 300 appearances for Cradley in the old Dudley Wood days, is in the country for the Monster Energy FIM Speedway World Cup.

The 44-year-old Californian appeared, with former Cradley team-mates and members of the USA side, at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill in front of more than 200 fans in an event supported by Motor Market of Cradley Heath.

And the 1996 world champion said: "I can't believe that, here I am, 24 years after I first rode for Cradley Heath before they closed down, here I am in this venue with hundreds of supporters, it's pretty special.

"There were so many people I hadn't seen for years and it was pretty special to have my former manager Colin Pratt and my old team-mates here too. I can't thank everyone enough for making this happen." The Brierley Hill event was hosted by Nigel Pearson, who led Hamill through his memories of the Heathens.

Wulfs win winds up the friendlies

AFC WULFRUNIANS completed their pre-season schedule with a 2-1 victory at home to United Counties League Premier Division side AFC Rushden & Diamonds.

Nathan Rose-Laing and Scott Stevenson gave Wulfs a 2-0 half-time lead before Matt Pinder pulled a goal back for Diamonds.

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